



The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1858.

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Review of the Week.

EIGHTEEN hundred and fifty-eight opens out before us—a year of work. Three great labours are plainly laid down: the substitution of a new Government for India, a searching and thorough investigation of our Mercantile and Financial systems, and the production of a Reform Bill at least adequate to meet the more moderate demands of the time. The items are few, but the whole coming session of Parliament will be well spent if it achieves a satisfactory completion of them.

India, obviously, will be the most difficult to deal with, and the news brought by the last mail from Calcutta will not help to ease the difficulty. The intelligence received is of a decidedly serious character. There is not the least doubt that the Residency at Lucknow has been relieved, and the women, children, and sick sent in safety to Cawnpore; but there our assurance stops. Sir COLIN CAMPBELL reached the Residency—and, thanks to the bravely sustained defence of its holders, with comparatively small loss; but that appears to have been all he was able to do. The mutineers hold the whole of the city, with the exception of the outskirts, from which they were driven by the Commander-in-Chief, and the force at hand appeared wholly insufficient to dislodge them. Possibly Sir COLIN has retired to Cawnpore until reinforcements reach him in sufficient number to open the next campaign with the certainty of prosecuting it with vigour. It is hardly possible, upon the incomplete data furnished by the late mails, to form any conclusion as to the probable course of events. Driven from Lucknow, the rebels may disperse and fortify themselves in the almost innumerable fortresses scattered over Oude, or they may take to the more impenetrable jungle; in the former case the labour of subduing them would be immense in the latter, almost interminable. Of the Gwalior rebels we hear next to nothing by the present mail. By one account, they would appear to have marched upon Gwalior. From Mirzapore and Benares there come reports of danger; and in the Presidency of Madras a band of Rohillas had attacked a town somewhere between Masulipatam and Hyderabad, and succeeded in beating the Sepoys and residents, and in carrying off the treasury-chest towards the Deccan. But it is towards Central India that we look with most anxiety.

Three remarkable orders have been issued, one

by the Commander-in-Chief, regulating the treatment of Native officers, non-commissioned officers, and Sepoys of revolted regiments, who were absent on furlough at the time of the revolt of their regiments, in the event of their returning at or after the expiration of their time; the second regulates the amount of compensation to be allowed by the Indian Government to various classes of sufferers by the mutinies; the third refers to foreigners, who henceforth are not to be permitted to reside or travel in India without a special license from the Government.

A fourth, and by very far the most important order, signed by R. MONTGOMERY, the judicial commissioner in the Punjab, announces that caste will no longer—at least in the province governed by Sir JOHN LAWRENCE—be allowed to carry with it any weight in the public service. The document declares it to be 'disgraceful' to us that native Christians have hitherto been held to be ineligible for public employment; and henceforth, all functions under the Government of the Punjab will be thrown open equally to Christian, Hindoo, and Mussulman.

In anticipation of the heavy work to come, Lord PALMERSTON has been revising his Ministry; on the principle of keeping no more cats than can catch mice, the Earl of HARROWBY, Privy Seal, has been induced to 'resign,' on account of the state of his health, and to enable the Premier to fill a seat in the Cabinet with a family Whig, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, who, besides good health, has the special advantage of being brother-in-law to the Governor-General, and a man 'up' in the jargon of Indian polemics.

The preparations for the royal marriage on the 25th instant are being elaborated with great zeal, and the result, as far as embellishment goes, will be, no doubt, all that could be reasonably expected; but with the public there will be an enormous amount of dissatisfaction, caused by the insurmountable want of space, both in the Chapel Royal and in the places adjacent. Already the Lord Chamberlain is enduring the trials of a regular besiegement by applicants for fifty times the amount of the accommodation at his command. Buckingham Palace, on the night of the 25th, will be tried to the utmost of its bed-supplying powers for the illustrious crowd of guests who will partake of HER MAJESTY's hospitality. The suites of all these great visitors will have to retire to FARRANCE's and FENTON's hotels, which have been retained entirely for them. A long series of festivities, commencing

with a state performance at Her Majesty's Theatre on the 19th, will gaily lead the way to the crowning ceremony on the 25th. The final public act of the interesting drama will be a Drawing-Room at St. James's Palace on the 30th, when HER MAJESTY will receive congratulations—the sincerity of which no one in the world will doubt. On Tuesday, February 2nd, England will part with its eldest daughter; affectionate interest will follow her, and never cease to watch over her in her new home. As the Victoria and Albert steams away from Gravesend, who doubts that a hailstorm of old shoes will follow it?

Nothing proves the decline of the Conservative party more than the late elections for North Northamptonshire and for Buckinghamshire. And the evidence is shown not only in the result but in the proceedings. Who was brought forward to replace Mr. AUGUSTUS STAFFORD—a gentleman of some social rank, of genial smartness, and of unflinching Tory protectionism? It was Mr. WARD HUNT, a gentleman, we believe, of not very high standing in the county, though much esteemed personally, and of politics which may in the comparison even be called Liberal. And that gentleman had rather a smart contest with a young Whig candidate introduced on the very eve of the election day. Again, in Buckinghamshire, who was selected to lead the Tories against the son of the late member, Mr. CAVENDISH? It was Captain HAMILTON, a gentleman who was once member for Aylesbury, and who has been kept on hand as a *pis aller* for that respectable borough. Mr. HAMILTON stood forward professedly as the representative of the tenant farmers, but he does not appear to have received any very sturdy support from that sensible body of men; and his good-humoured, bantering, simple-minded speeches do not indicate a person of high intellectual standing. Such was to have been the colleague of Mr. DISRAELI. But his total defeat has drawn forth proofs of weakness ominous for the continuance of a Tory ascendancy. In fact, the Liberals are already calculating that they shall be able to replace two if not three of the members on the next election; and the state of the Registry, which is a perfect archeological curiosity, will no doubt operate as a stimulus to renewed activity in registration throughout all counties as well as Buckinghamshire.

The financial aspects at the close of the year are indeed remarkable. We find the revenue exhibiting a decrease in comparison with 1856 of 1,828,000*l.*, at the same time that the Banks of England and

France have both lowered their discount; that the over-issue of notes at the Bank of England has been repaid; that persons of a precise turn of mind pronounce the crisis to be 'at an end.' The decrease is shown under every head of the revenue. In Customs and Excise it amounts to 1,755,000*l.*; and although a large portion of the decrease must be ascribed to a reduction of taxes, it is also due to a reduction of consumption and of trade. But while we see this decline, we see also the quotations of Consols steadily rising. They have never—throughout the greatest crisis that our trade has sustained—been so low as they have been in previous crises. The trade of our manufacturing districts is stagnant. Although France should rejoice in great commercial activity at the beginning of the year, all is dulness even there; and from America, in lieu of remittances, they send us brilliant promises of reviving trade. In fact, the whole aspect of commerce is like a gigantic antithesis—interesting to look at, painful to endure.

The determination of the Chapter to open Westminster Abbey for service on Sunday evenings is to be acted upon on Sunday next. This resolution has been adopted in consequence of the demands which have been addressed from without to the authorities of the Abbey, 'to make it more available for the great Christian ordinance of preaching God's Word to the people.' A letter from Dean FRENCH explains the reasons why there had been some appearance of hesitation on the part of the Chapter to comply with the wishes expressed by those who suggested the experiment—for experiment the Dean confesses he looks upon it as being. He argues that there are already seven churches open for evening service in Westminster every Sunday, and that it would be a real subject of regret if the mere attraction of novelty, or of a variety in the preachers, should draw large congregations to the Abbey services at the expense of the others. Nevertheless, the greatest exertions are being made to try the experiment fairly, by making the building as warm and comfortable as it can be made. We shall watch the results with interest.

The heroic story of the partial burning of the *Sarah Sands* will be told in another column of our paper. It is a story of sea-peril in which all the incidents are so striking, all the feelings involved are so fine, that nothing but the most perfect artlessness of narrative seems worthy of it. The danger is not that one would say too little, but too much, in re-telling it. Enough to say that it is as grand a story of its kind as any that is written in that grand collection of naval adventures of which we are, and may well be, nationally proud. But the triumphant rescue of this ship from her horrible peril points a moral that should be daily insisted upon: it is that the correct principles of iron ship-building should be developed with all practicable speed, as offering the only possible chance of securing life against the accident of fire at sea. One good instance is as useful as five thousand. It is impossible not to admit that, under the circumstances, had the *Sarah Sands* been built of wood, she *would* have been destroyed entirely.

The principle laid down by the advocate of Madame DE JEUSSE, and which the jury at Evreux accepted as her justification for causing the wretched blackleg GUILLOT to be fired upon, has been painfully misapplied by the Maire of a little town called Ail, near Metz, in the north of France. His daughter, a handsome girl of nineteen, had favoured the attentions of a young man named BASSET, who, with her connivance, was used to climb up to the grating of her chamber window. The father discovered the nocturnal visitations of his daughter's lover, and took the desperate resolution of shooting him. He instructed his son to lie in wait for him in his sister's room, which the son did, and upon the lover's appearing at the window, the son fired the contents of a double-barrelled gun at him. The poor fellow fell to the ground dead, and the next day he was discovered by the gendarmes lying where he had fallen—the father and son having gone to bed after the deed was done without taking any further heed of the victim. The two were at once apprehended, and will very likely be astonished if the jury who try them make such a just distinction between their case and that of the JEUSSES as will send them both to the scaffold or to the galleys.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

An old woman, living at Liscard, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, left her bed during the night, wandered while asleep to the river, and was drowned. Some of the villagers saw a figure dressed in white walking in the direction of the ferry, but had taken no notice of it, out of fear that it was a ghost. But for their superstitious folly and cowardice the poor woman's life might have been saved.

One of the passengers by the express train on the night of the collision on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, near Charlbury, on the 18th ult., died suddenly four days after the accident at Warwick. The deceased is Mr. James Hunt, the Poor Law auditor of the Oxfordshire and Warwickshire district. He was on his way to Warwick to attend a trial there connected with some embezzlement by an officer of the Poor Law when the accident happened. The cause of death was the bursting of an aneurismal sac, and the consequent flow of blood into the abdomen. An inquest has been opened, but is adjourned to next Wednesday.

A portion of a train of waggons suddenly parted from the rest on Monday evening as they were going up the incline at Helmsboro, between Ramsbottom and Accrington, on the East Lancashire Railway. The part thus disjoined, consisting of eight waggons, ran down the incline with great velocity; seeing which, the guard, who was on the last wagon of the eight, jumped off, hoping to be able to catch hold of the points, and turn the runaways into a siding. But he fell; the waggons rolled on, and shortly afterwards a collision ensued with an advancing passenger train from Manchester. The consequence was that the engine and the first carriage were nearly destroyed, and both the lines were blocked up. The passengers were severely shaken, but not seriously injured, with the exception of one gentleman, who jumped out in his alarm, and received a severe contusion of the left thigh. The guard of the passenger train was also disabled by a blow on the legs. It does not appear that blame is attributable to any one.

A steam-engine boiler, connected with a colliery at the outskirts of Leeds, exploded on Tuesday morning, causing the death of one of the proprietors of the colliery (Mr. Joseph Garside), and seriously injuring the engineman and a boy. The boiler was old, and apparently made of very inferior metal. The boy has since died.

Two engines came into collision, on Sunday evening, at the Gorton station of the Manchester and Sheffield Railway. One was a ballast engine, the driver of which was crossing from one line to another in front of the second engine, when the crash took place. This he had no right to do, unless authorized by the signal; and the signal was off at the time, the signalman being at a public-house. The driver of the ballast engine was killed; and two other men were injured, one seriously. The signalman has been taken into custody.

An inquest has been held on the body of Mr. Henry Adams, aged thirty-one, a gunmaker in Gray's Inn-lane. He had lately taken to excessive drinking. On Thursday week, he drank an enormous quantity, and, in the evening, just after swallowing some raw gin, he fell down in a fit, and expired. The immediate cause of death was extravasation of blood on the brain; and a verdict in accordance was returned.

A girl, about sixteen years of age, fell a few days ago down the opening of a shaft at one of the coal pits near Harford, Scotland. It was night, and she did not see the orifice. She fell about three hundred feet, and, on one of the colliers going down after her, she was found quite dead with her face downwards on the bar of the cage, over which she was literally doubled up and almost broken in two.

An unusually large number of cases of sudden death have been reported during the present week.

Liverpool has been the scene of an alarming accident. A large pile of buildings in course of erection on the north side of the Sailors' Home fell while four workmen were engaged on it. The men were thrown into the vaults below, a distance of thirty feet, and, when got out, were found to be suffering from concussion of the brain. It is doubtful whether one of them will not die.

The coroner's inquest on the seven persons killed by the fall of a chimney at the Ouse Chemical Works, near Howden, was resumed on Wednesday morning. After the coroner had read the evidence, the jury deliberated about half an hour, and then returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A man, aged about sixty, lately an inmate of St. Pancras workhouse, has died from the effects of eating an enormous quantity of cold plum-pudding. He was in the act of swallowing a large piece when he fell insensible to the ground. Apoplexy had come on, a portion of the pudding having been imbedded in the breathing organs.

A boy, eight years old, has died at Rotherhithe from having put a pea in his ear, which he said he would bring out at his mouth, for the amusement of some of his young friends. On the pea getting beyond his power of recall, he cried out for help, and medical assistance was sought; but all was in vain.

A child has been scalded to death at Lambeth in a way which not unfrequently happens in humble life. He placed the spout of a kettle which was on the fire to his mouth, and drank some of the scalding water. He lingered for rather more than a day, and then died.

The coroner's jury, in the case of the deaths resulting from the explosion last week of a steam thrashing-machine, has returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased were accidentally killed by the explosion of the boiler of a steam thrashing-machine, caused by undue pressure resulting from the incompetency and mismanagement of Thomas Johnson, deceased. And the jury suggest to the coroner that he should represent to the Secretary of State and other authorities the necessity of Government or other inspectors being appointed to institute periodical inspections of agricultural steam thrashing-machines and the competency of their attendants."

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SHIPPING DISASTERS.—Several vessels were either partially or totally wrecked along the eastern coast last week.

MUTINY IN THE MERSEY.—A mutiny of a formidable kind broke out on the night of Thursday week on board the American ship *J. J. Boyd*, lying in the river, ready to sail for New York. When the anchor was about to be weighed, the crew refused to touch a rope, armed themselves with belaying pins and knives, and assaulted the mate. Eighteen were taken before the county magistrates, at Liverpool, last Saturday. The captain being anxious to proceed to sea that evening withdrew the charge of mutiny; but two of the crew were fined 5*l.* each and costs for the assault. The other prisoners were discharged.

BURNING OF A SCREW TRANSPORT STEAMER.—The *Sarah Sands*, a transport steamer, has been partially burnt about four hundred miles off Mauritius, while on its passage from Portsmouth to India with the headquarters and a large portion of the men of the 54th Regiment. The fire was of a most appalling kind; but the crew and soldiers behaved with the most admirable coolness and courage, and the women and children were for a time sent off in the boats, while the men used every exertion to check the flames. The greater part of the gunpowder was thrown overboard, though in getting it out of the magazine several persons nearly lost their lives, being overpowered by the smoke. A few barrels, however, could not be got at, and a fearful explosion ensued, shattering the port quarter. The flames now seemed to gain a mastery over all parts of the vessel; but the courage and energy of the officers and men continued unabated, and at length the fire was subdued. The women and children were then brought back; but the danger was not entirely over, for, the ship being a complete wreck, and the weather being rough and tempestuous, constant baling and working at the pumps were necessary to keep her afloat. At length, however, all got safely to Mauritius. The ship was insured at Lloyd's.

A BATCH OF MILITARY RIOTS.—The Royal Dublin Militia, stationed at Bradford, got drunk on the night of Christmas-day, and commenced a riot which at one time looked alarming. Ultimately, seven of them were taken into custody, but given up shortly afterwards to a party from the barracks.—A disturbance broke out on Monday evening amongst the soldiers quartered in St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham. A great deal of fighting ensued; and, as the men used their side-arms, some severe stabs were received. Several of the belligerents were taken prisoners, and sent to the guard-house.—A disgraceful disturbance has been created at Edinburgh by a party of drunken soldiers belonging to the Staffordshire Militia, now stationed in the Scotch capital. They attacked the populace with their belts, and treated them very roughly. Lieutenant Milligan, of the City police, having presented himself in the midst of the fray, some of the militiamen, drawing their bayonets, stabbed him in the head in several places. The wounds, however, were not serious, and the lieutenant is now recovering. Several of the men are now in custody.—Some soldiers of the Coldstream Guards made a ferocious attack, on Thursday evening, on several policemen in the Broadway, Westminster. One of the soldiers was being apprehended at a public-house on a charge of felony, and whilst he was being conveyed to the station-house, some of his comrades succeeded in rescuing him. A desperate affray ensued, and some of the police were so seriously injured that they were taken to the hospital. The whole neighbourhood continued for some time in a very disturbed state, and the riotous soldiers got clear off.

COLONEL INGLIS OF THE LUCKNOW RESIDENCY.—The pension for distinguished service, rendered vacant by the appointment of Sir Henry Havelock to the colonelcy of the 3rd Buffs, has been conferred by the General Commanding in Chief on Colonel Inglis, of the 82nd Regiment, who so successfully prolonged the defence of the Residency of Lucknow.

A MILITARY INSTITUTE FOR WOOLWICH.—A meeting of officers has been held at Woolwich, presided over by Major-General Williams, the object of which was to discuss the propriety of the military institute now in progress in that locality, for the benefit and recreation of private soldiers. A large majority declared in favour of the institution.

THE STATE YACHT.—Her Majesty's State yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, Captain the Hon. Joseph Denman, is being repainted and embellished externally and internally for the special service of conveying the Princess Royal and the Prince of Prussia to Antwerp en route to Prussia after their nuptials.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE full despatches from India, which have arrived in London during the week, do not add much to our general knowledge of events; but they contain details of the gallant relief of Lucknow. These will be read with interest, as a harder fight, or one with a more important object, was never fought. From the *Bombay Gazette* we derive a narrative of the protracted struggle:—

LUCKNOW.

"Sir Colin Campbell arrived at Cawnpore on the 3rd of November. On the 9th he crossed the Ganges, and joined Brigadier Grant's column at Nawabgunge, a few miles short of Lucknow. On the 10th or 11th, the force reached the Alumbagh, and on the 13th it made a detour to capture the fort of Jellalabad, to the right of the road, which was promptly taken and destroyed. On the 15th, by another detour to the right, driving the enemy before him, Sir Colin obtained possession of the Delkhasah Park and the Martinière School outside the city, and of the canal which bounds it on the side towards Cawnpore. Thence, on the 16th, he advanced across the canal direct upon Secunderbagh, probably a large garden strongly walled in the city, which was carried after a severe struggle, in which the enemy suffered immensely. This position having been occupied, the barracks were attacked with heavy artillery for three hours, and were carried at dusk (the 16th), 'after one of the severest fights ever witnessed.' Early on the 17th communications were opened to the left rear of the barracks towards the canal. A cannonade was kept up all the morning on the mess-house, and that very strong position was carried by assault at three p.m. The troops pushed rapidly on after carrying the mess-house, and were able to seize the Motee Mahal before dark. Sir James Outram and Sir Henry Havelock then came out to meet the Commander-in-Chief. We have as yet no details of subsequent operations, but we know that on the 20th a great part of the place was in the hands of our troops, and that it had been found practicable to send the women and children away to Cawnpore. The loss on our side in these operations must have been considerable.

"Including the garrison of the Alumbagh, the Commander-in-Chief would have with him about 6000 men, which the junction of those in Lucknow would increase to about 8000—a very respectable force as things go, and capable of dealing easily, according to Indian calculations, with at least 50,000 mutineers and rebels. This force was accompanied by a powerful artillery, including eleven heavy guns, some of them worked by the seamen of the Naval Brigade. Sir Colin Campbell appears duly to have appreciated his own strength in this arm, and to have resolved to turn it to the best account in making way for his infantry."

The loss on the part of the Sepoys was immense. One thousand five hundred dead bodies were found in one place. From another account we learn that the rebels have not entirely evacuated Lucknow, and that Sir Colin Campbell asks for reinforcements.

The *Calcutta Englishman* publishes the following extra intelligence:—

"From private sources we learn that our loss [at Lucknow] has been small; that of the enemy very great, being estimated at 7000 men. The Commander-in-Chief did not follow the example of Generals Outram and Havelock, who endeavoured to force their way through the narrow streets of this large city, where every house is said to be loopholed and filled with armed men. This they only accomplished with a loss which totally crippled their small force and reduced them to the condition of the garrison, having been ever since besieged in the Residency. Sir Colin Campbell avoided the town, and, by making a circuit through the suburbs, has spared his troops and accomplished his object, though it is believed that the force of rebels and mutineers assembled at Lucknow is so great that he will not be able to subdue or disperse them without considerable reinforcements. These are now fast pouring in, and every day is adding to the strength of the British troops in all the intermediate stations.

"Although the Commander-in-Chief's success is highly important, and will greatly discourage the insurgents, it must not be hastily concluded that the work is done. The whole of Oude is in arms, and the adjoining district of Rohilcond is also disaffected and disturbed, so that, even if no large body should still contend for Lucknow, or concentrate themselves elsewhere, it will require a considerable time to put down all resistance, to punish marauders and plunderers, and to restore obedience."

The *Hurkaru* states that our loss was 'very heavy' during the struggle at Lucknow.

The interruption of telegraphic communications leaves us in the dark as to the state of things in Lucknow after the 20th of November. On the 17th, a heavy cannonade was kept up on the palaces; but letters have been received at Calcutta from Lucknow or Cawnpore, dated the 19th, to the effect that the firing had almost ceased. The East India House telegram from the Secretary to the Government at Calcutta says:—

"The city of Lucknow will be held in check by a strong movable column, with field and heavy artillery, occupying a good military position outside the town. The fort of Antrowahes has been evacuated by the enemy, and razed to the ground by Colonel Southden, who intended returning instantly to the Jaunpore frontier, as it was still threatened by a large force from Oude."

With respect to the removal of the women and children and the sick and wounded from Lucknow, it appears from this telegram that nothing is said by Sir Colin Campbell about their having been sent to Cawnpore. He simply reports that the garrison had been removed, and that he is engaged in conveying women and wounded to the rear."

DELHI.

The Bombay correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—

"A fatal spirit of lenity, the ghost of Mr. Colvin's policy, lingers at Delhi. Numerous prisoners sent in from time to time are treated with respect and tenderness. The King is sumptuously attended in his so-called confinement, and receives the customary forms of ceremonial to which his old rank entitled him. A son of the King of Delhi is seen taking airings on an elephant, with Colonel Hogge and Mr. C. B. Sanders seated behind him in the howdah. Noted leaders of the rebellion are in custody, and should be tried. Their names have been published. They are—Hossein Khan, a Persian, who commanded a regiment at Delhi; Nuwab Ahmed Kooli Khan, the father-in-law of the King, who went out to meet the Bareilly brigade and escorted them into the city; the Nuwab of Jhunjur, and Nuwab Ameen Oodeen Khan, accused of assisting in the murder of Mr. Fraser."

In the same letter we read:—

"South of Delhi, the country so lately crossed by our victorious column has again fallen into the hands of armed natives. Walleedad Khan, whose fort at Malayghur was blown up, has returned to Boolundshahr. Futtehpore Sikree, taken by Colonel Cotton on the 29th of September, is again in the hands of the enemy. The Mynpoorie Rajah Tej Singh, who fled at our approach, and who was replaced by his brother, came back and forced our new authorities to fly. Major Eld, with the garrison of Alleghur, and Colonel Knodell, with two hundred and fifty of the 3rd Europeans, Sikhs, and Militia Cavalry, have been sent to hunt out Walleedad Khan a second time. The Alleghur force had, by the last accounts, already reoccupied Secundra Rao. They will ultimately march to Mynpoorie."

GENERAL SUMMARY.

A general summary of the progress of affairs over the whole of British India is presented by the *Engestr Hurkaru*:—

"The telegraphic communication, which was re-established between Cawnpore and Alumbagh, has been cut off. Whether the wires have been destroyed or not, we are not aware, but two signallers, who seem strangely enough to have been without an escort have been found murdered, which is quite sufficient to account for the absence of communication.

"The Pachete Rajah has been arrested under circumstances of strong suspicion, which seemed justified by the fact that his house at Kossipore, near Ragoonathpore, was found to be fortified, surrounded by a trench, and to contain a number of warlike stores. The 82nd mutineers have been pursued by Major English and Captain Rattray, but the greater part of them have got clear off, and will probably cause some trouble yet. The Gwallor mutineers are at Calpee, where they seem to want an object."

"In Central India there have been various 'affairs' with the mutineers. The most serious is the mutiny of the Kotah contingent at Kotah, and the murder of Major Burton and his two sons, as well as Dr. Solder and Mr. Saville. Major Burton had arrived at the Presidency only a few days previously. He had no great reputation as a political, but he was much respected by his friends, by whom his loss will be deeply felt."

"The North-West is tolerably quiet; but our garrisons generally are not very strong, and the reinforcements which are arriving almost daily in Calcutta will be highly welcome in many places."

"The Legislative Council have passed an act upon the subject of foreigners in India. Foreigners must, for the future, have licenses to remain in the country, and to travel, stating their objects, &c. It is thought that the presence of persons supposed to be Russians, with the mutineers at Delhi and elsewhere, and the intrigues of General d'Orgoni, otherwise M. Girodon, have led to this measure."

"The despatch of the Court of Directors indefinitely postponing the Black Act has been brought before the Legislative Council. The supporters of the act did not say a word in its favour, and the despatch was quietly referred to the committee upon the new code. This proceeding has given great satisfaction to the European community, who look upon it as an indication of what is to come."

"The Government have published a resolution detailing the plan of compensation which they have decided upon for persons who have lost property by the mutinies. It is very unsatisfactory, especially as regards the

largest proportion of the military, and all of the non-official classes. The largest proportion of officers are of course subalterns, and these are very hardly treated. Every subaltern, immediately after the matiny of his regiment, lost his company allowance—one, or even more companies, as the case may be—and this loss, extending over several months, is not taken into account in any way. Officers in civil employ were permitted to draw their allowances up to the 1st of October, and many of them were able to regain their appointment before that time, and so have suffered no loss at all."

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.

A telegram received at the East India House on Monday from Mr. G. F. Edmonstone, Secretary to the Government of India, says:—

"Lieutenant Osborne, political agent in Rewah, has been authorized to detach a force to suppress the insurrection in Bijargoghur, and to take the administration in his own hands. He reports that certain chiefs of Magher have broken out in rebellion at Rewah itself. The agent seems to be all right now. A body of mutineers was reported on the 10th [of November] to have advanced from Ghorawal or Mozzapore district, and to have crossed the Belgaun into Rewah territory. This fort of Dhar was occupied by our troops on the 15th, but the rebel garrison escaped."

"It is apprehended that the mutiny of the Cotah troops, and the disaffection among the feudatories of Meyer and Marwar may cause serious disorder in Rajpootana. The force there is very weak, and European troops are urgently called for."

"The rebels seem determined to make a desperate stand in Oude. They have placed a boy on the throne, whom they keep in state at Fyzabad, a well-fortified and populous city. Nana Sahib, with all his men, baggage, &c., has joined the force at Jaloun, where another puppet sovereign has been set up—one Jaice Baice, a grandson, it is said, of the Maharah Scindiah. The Nana, however, appears to be the real potentate. He is said to be acting in concert with the Ranees of Jhansi."

The Supreme Government of India has sanctioned the increase of each regiment of native infantry in the Madras army to 1000 privates; and the strength accordingly of each regiment will in future be as follows:—10 subahdars, 10 jemadars, 60 havildars, 60 naikes, 20 drummers or buglers, and 1000 privates. The corps of Sappers and Miners is also to be increased from nine to twelve companies."

A bill has been introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council to enable the Government to brand the rebel Sepoys with the letters M and D, standing for mutiny and desertion."

A telegraphic despatch (non-official) from Trieste, dated the 28th ult., states that "three companies of the 34th Native Infantry mutinied at Chittagong on the 19th of November, and marched to Daoca. One hundred Europeans were sent to intercept them. No Europeans were killed during the mutiny." The final result is not yet known."

THE MURDER OF LIEUTENANT NEVILLE.

Details of this lamentable event are thus supplied by the *Daily News* Bombay correspondent:—

"In the Panjab the hill rebels still give considerable trouble. Lieutenant Neville, proceeding to Bombay to meet his intended bride, who recently arrived here in the Windsor Castle, was killed at Pali Puttan, where his boat lay at anchor for the night. He had started from Ferozepore in a country boat, and as it was dropping down the stream by a place called Jumlera, on the Sutlej, a party of the rebels, numbering forty, hailed the boatmen from the bank to put to. The request being backed by threats that they would be fired upon in the event of non-compliance, it was at once obeyed, when the boat was attacked. A conflict ensued between the ill-fated occupant and the rebels. Lieutenant Neville is said to have made a stout resistance, cutting down two of his assailants; but, being himself wounded, he was seized and carried off to the rebel camp. He offered to pay the sum of two thousand rupees as a ransom for his life, and the party who made him a prisoner agreed to the arrangement. But no sooner was he taken before the chief of the insurgents than a command was issued to put him to death, which was done in the most diabolical manner. The commissioner, Major Hamilton, visited the scene of murder soon after, and I hear picked up a few relics belonging to the unfortunate man."

THE APPOINTMENT OF MOONSHEE AMER ALL.

Mr. E. A. Samuels, the Commissioner of Revenue for the Division of Patna, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Government of Bengal in defence of the appointment of the Moonshree Ameer Ali, a Mahomedan, to an office under Government since the revolt—an act which has caused great offence among the English residents in India. Mr. Samuels asserts that the Moonshree has given repeated proofs of his loyalty to our Government, and denies that the Mahomedans of India are, as a rule, opposed to us. He mentions instances of their having upheld our authority, and repressed attempted revolts; but he adds that if, as many journals seem to desire, we are to go upon the principle of systematically excluding Mahomedans from office, we shall soon alienate their affections, and convert them into enemies."

SUSPECTED ORIGIN OF THE REVOLT.

The *Homeward Mail* publishes a translation of an Urdu paper, found in the house of a Vakil of the Sadler Court, and consisting of an extract from the *Lakhan*, native newspaper, of the 28th of March, 1857. The upshot of this document is to the effect that among the Mahomedans of Arabia, Turkistan, Persia, and Turkey, a great war for the defence and propagation of 'the faith' and the extermination of 'the infidel' was at that time being organized. This statement is accompanied by an exhortation to the Muslims of India to prepare themselves for joining in the struggle.

SPECIAL LETTERS FROM INDIA.

(From a Military Correspondent.)

Nagpore, November, 1857.

To return to Nagpore and the Madras troops: it would be the most shortsighted and narrow-minded policy for our rulers to endeavour to persuade themselves, or for them to endeavour to persuade the people of England, that the Madras Sepoys are really and truly loyal and devoted to their European masters. They are not. Their sympathies from the first rumour of the Meerut and Delhi outbreaks have been entirely with the mutineers; and in the bazaar, the mosque, and even the guard-room, there was but little concealment in the expression of those sympathies. As usual the last persons to hear a hint of the sepoys' opinions, hopes, and plans, were the officers of the Madras regiments; indeed the great majority of them now profess the greatest confidence in their men, and would indignantly repudiate the possibility of their ever having been disposed to join in the rebellion. We have seen the same blind and fatal confidence in the officers of many Bengal and Native regiments; and we have seen by how much the bloody results of the mutiny have been swelled by persistence in that blind confidence, until the last moment of possible safety had passed. But still, although one cannot excuse that want of information and insight in the commandants and higher ranks of the army, it is impossible to quarrel with the junior officers for feeling confidence in their men. We may deplore the cause of that confidence—their ignorance—and urge the inefficiency of such officers with such troops, but the feeling is a noble and a truly military feeling, and we cannot quarrel with it.

The Madras and Bombay armies have always been kept in a more strict state of discipline, and there has always existed a more soldier-like feeling, and a higher sense of duty among their officers, than among the officers of the Bengal army. It will be seen that I only speak comparatively. In the two minor armies the sepoys were not quite so entirely left to take care of themselves, and allowed to have their own way. In the Madras Presidency especially, there was not such a profusion of staff and civil appointments open to military officers, and consequently not such a constant and universal anxiety to escape from regimental duty. The system and traditions of the Madras and Bombay armies were better; and in both there was a greater mixture of castes and races, although the proportion of actual low-caste and out-caste sepoys was much less than has been generally supposed and represented. But one-half of the Bengal army was composed of Brahmins and Rajpoots, who by their superior numbers and social position gave the tone to the whole corps; only two other respectable Hindoo castes, Aheers and Kayaths, were ever admitted to the ranks; and the small number of Mussulmans, drawn from the same localities with the Hindoo sepoys, had hardly any object or interest that was separate from their comrades, and no stronger inducement to remain faithful to the British Government. On the other hand, the attraction of Delhi, and their ancient monarchy, when once that became the word of action, was, of course, stronger with the Mussulmans than with the Hindoos.

But now you will ask me why the contagion of mutiny did not spread to the Madras army, why it has so slightly affected the Bombay army, and why the Irregular corps, whose system I have praised and advocated, have in so many instances followed the lead of the regiments of the line. Before touching on the general and particular, the remote and exciting, causes of the rebellion, I will endeavour to answer these questions.

And first, as to the Irregular and Local regiments. Many of them mutinied certainly, but a very large minority at least of them are doing good and active service to this day, while, with the exception of two battalions, the 81st at Saugor and the 72nd at Julpigore, every one of the regular corps has either mutinied or has been disbanded. And another observation must be made, that with the exception of one or two instances, the men of the mutinous Irregular corps have not attempted to murder their officers; in many cases they have treated them with marked care and consideration; and, in almost every corps, there has been a not inconsiderable party that have remained true to their allegiance. Every circumstance has concurred to show the superior temper and spirit of the men of Irregular corps, and the stronger influence and control of their three selected European officers, when compared with the blindness and helplessness of the numerous regimental officers of the regular corps. This is the more remarkable when

we consider that the men of the Irregular regiments are drawn from exactly the same districts and exactly the same classes as the men of the line. And yet the European officers of the Irregular corps are not selected with sufficient conscientiousness and care; nor are they entrusted with sufficient independent authority; while the native officers are taken from the ranks, and promoted for the most part on the same faulty principles that we have already alluded to when speaking of the regular infantry. There is much room for improvement in the Irregular system, but its superiority has been conspicuously proved.

Six or seven battalions of the Bombay army have been found tainted with mutiny; two have exploded very much in the style to which we have now become accustomed, and in one officers have been murdered. Nor have the mutineers been entirely confined to the Poorbea sepoys of the same caste and locality as the Bengal sepoys, as was at first stated. Many of the mutineers of the 27th N. L., who killed three young officers at Kolapore, were Maharrattas and Deccanee Mussulmans. The better organization and discipline of the Bombay and Madras armies, and their differences of race and language, have had much to do with their general good behaviour, but the great cause of their salvation has been their removal from the scenes of excitement and temptation by considerable distances. The tide of rebellion has never swept before their doors; they have never been in actual communication with the actors in the mutiny; the contagion never actually reached them. But they were all much interested and excited by the rumours which they heard, in proportion to their vicinity to the disturbed districts, and I hesitate not to state, on information which appears to me to be quite unimpeachable, that all their sympathies and hopes were with the mutineers and rebels. The Madras and Bombay sepoys have no more affection for our race, and no more devotion to our Government, than those of Bengal. It must be remembered that I am speaking of a time of general madness and confusion, when the ties of duty and custom are relaxed or broken, when superstition and vague dreams of glory and plunder rule the hour. Where the Bombay troops, as at Neemuch and Nusseerabad, did come partially within the circle of contagion, they were found utterly untrustworthy, and the lives of their officers hung by a thread. At Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kurra- chee, Shikarpore, Kolapore, Belgaum, and Dharwar, there have been plots among the sepoys, and severe examples have been made of many of them.

At this place, Nagpore, which may be considered to have been throughout these dangerous times the advanced post of the Madras army, there were plots and conspiracies among all ranks and classes, except the very highest—the Ranees of Nagpore and their nearest relations, who kept to their old traditional policy of fidelity to the British Government. But the most powerful and dangerous class of conspirators kept themselves carefully in reserve, and watched the course of events, ready to take advantage of any favourable opportunity for action. The only plot that came to anything like maturity was one got up by some fanatical Mussulmans in the city of Nagpore, in conjunction with some native officers in the Irregular cavalry; and it was from the first a complete and dismal failure; the sepoys of the Irregular regiments denounced themselves the emissaries who came to try and persuade them to join; very few even of the Irregular cavalry were let into the secret; and the whole affair exploded prematurely, or rather flashed in the pan; the leaders were arrested without an attempt at resistance or rescue; nine of them were hanged after a fair trial, and not a shot has been fired on either side up to the present day.

But during these days of conspiracy, the Madras sepoys at Kamptee were tampered with by influential and disaffected natives, and such answers were returned to their overtures as clearly proved what I have been enforcing, that the sympathies of the Madras sepoys were entirely with the insurrectionary movement, and that if they had got a tempting opportunity they would have joined in it. They only wanted a beginning to be made and a rallying-point of some sort, a standard either of a Rajah, or a pretender, of the Mussulman faith, to be exhibited, for them to take their part against the Feringhees. But they never got the steam up here; and a second excitement is not easily to be produced after a dismal and ignominious failure.

All honour and credit to the Madras troops who have behaved so well during a season of great difficulty and danger! all honour to their officers, for the excellent state of discipline in which those troops have been kept for many years! but do not let us fall into dreams of fancied security regarding them. They are not to be trusted; they have not the contented or loyal spirit that ought to be desired and might be obtained in the native troops. Had one or two of their battalions mutinied in the midst of the Delhi excitement, had one brigade gone wrong, the contagion would have spread throughout the army like wildfire, as it did through the Bengal army; for the Madras troops are as much attached and held together by their 'bhys bund,' or brotherhood, as the Bengal army is. And one-third of the Madras infantry and the whole of the cavalry are Mahomedan. We must never forget the mutiny at Vellore, or suppose that the Madras men are of a different clay from those of Bengal. Had the brigade at Nagpore gone wrong, the sepoys at Hyderabad could not have remained quiet,

the Nizam could not have resisted the impulse, or would have been struck down and replaced by one of his brothers, the whole Deccan would have been in a blaze, Poona, Sattara, Kolapore, the Carnatic, would have sent forth hordes of rebels and mutineers. We have escaped from a terrible, incalculable aggravation and extension of the shock our empire has received, and in my next letter I will give you a more particular account of the cause of our escape. Nagpore was for two months the most critical point in India.

Remember that I have been speaking of the Madras army during a period of general excitement and madness. That time has passed by; and the Madraasees are just as trustworthy now as they ever were. I don't doubt that they will attack the Bengal mutineers with as much determination as they would any other enemy of the Government. They have no great love for the haughty Brahmins and Rajpoots of the north; and now that the Delhi delusion has been dissipated, they have begun to regain their old faith in the overwhelming power of their British masters. But the Bengal sepoys served us faithfully for a hundred years, and I doubt not, were they organized on exactly the old footing, they would serve us faithfully for many years more. But it would be utter insanity to try them. The fact is that our sepoy army was on much too large a scale, and organized on a faulty and degrading plan. We want a large reduction and a sweeping reform.

I shall endeavour in my next letter to show that this was no mere pretorian rebellion; and that it was only in a very confined sense the result of a deeply-laid conspiracy. It was very much of a national uprising, and could not, by any amount of precautions, have been postponed many years. Nothing but a course of reparation and restoration can prevent the recurrence of a similar attempt at a war of extermination against us. At present there is nothing to be done but the signal and exemplary punishment of the mutineers and rebels; should it be necessary for the next three years to hunt them down in every village and hill of the peninsula, it must be done; not a single murderer must escape a disgraceful death, not a single mutineer must escape transportation. There are distinctions to be drawn in the guilt of regiments and individuals, but none should escape without feeling the consequences of its rebellion.

E. V.

DIRECT RAILROAD FROM LONDON TO CALCUTTA.

We have received the following, addressed by Mr. William H. Villiers Sankey, C.E., to the Earl of Clarendon, in January last. It shows that the Channel Viaduct forms a part of his original project for a 'through' Railway from London to Calcutta:—

My Lord,—Now that there is so much said and written about the Suez Canal, and as the English Government has been repeatedly called upon to aid in the undertaking, I wish to lay before your Lordship some considerations of importance, which it would be well to take seriously into account before laying out eight millions of public money, especially as the Canal might be filled in again with sand swept across the desert by the simoon,

"And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

In former times, when the rate of water transit greatly exceeded the speed of journeys by land, it was an advantage to connect tracts of water by canals; now, however, things are altogether changed by the introduction of railways, and every mile of a route that can be travelled by land may be got over in less than a quarter of the time that it would take to traverse a like distance by sea. From this it will be seen that a great *détour* may even be made on land, and still the time required to perform a given journey be less than following the direct route by water; how much more advantageous, then, must it be to take the direct course by an uninterrupted railroad, in preference to going a long way round in vessels. And here I would draw attention to the fact that all the plans yet proposed for shortening the route to India are behind the age.

In a few years the coasts of England and France will be united by rail, either by a tunnel under the bed of the Channel, by a viaduct of new construction, spanning the Channel itself on moles, or, what would be better, by a hollow iron passage laid on the surface of the ground under water, like the submarine telegraph; and this latter plan could be easily and economically carried into effect.

In the event of such a railroad being established, the whole of the East is capable of being connected with England by land. Railway communication is already made between Calais and the Valley of the Danube, and what is now required is to continue that line from near Donnanwerth to Vienna, along the banks of the Danube, and following the same valley as much as possible, to prolong the railroad by the shortest and best route to Constantinople. There the narrow channel which separates the capital of Turkey from the mainland of the Asiatic continent, might be crossed in the manner I have alluded to for effecting the communication between the neighbouring shores of the British Channel. From thence, the shortest practicable route should be taken to reach the Persian Gulf, after which the line should

skirt the shores of that bay, and then follow the coast of the Indian Ocean, and thus continue, through the Valley of the Indus, into the very heart of India. This would be a real 'Overland Route'—one which must be carried out at no very distant period—and which would be of incalculable advantage to our great Indian Empire, as well as to England and to the world, and I would at once put my project into execution if I could obtain a concession for the line, guaranteed by England, in concert with the other great powers interested. I am convinced such a work of public utility would yield an immense return on money invested, and on such conditions I am ready to undertake the completion of a through railway communication direct from London to Calcutta, and to find all the capital for the same.

Science is ever progressing, ingenuity is constantly at work, and in modern engineering there is no obstacle, however great, that cannot be overcome by time and money, and the very fact of having such a work to accomplish would lead to new inventions, more extraordinary than any of the *neue Erfindungen* we have yet seen, but which would suggest themselves as naturally on emergency as the *Britannia Tube*, the *Crystal Palace*, or the *Submerged Cable*.

Trusting that your Lordship will see the high importance of this suggestion, and the interest that the British Government would have in its accomplishment, and at the same time, as an engineer, assuring your Lordship that extraordinary as is my project it is eminently practicable, and in the hope that you will therefore bring your powerful aid to bear, so as to enable me to achieve so gigantic, but so useful an undertaking, both by explaining my views to the Cabinet of which your Lordship is so distinguished a member, and in persuading foreign Governments to join in adopting my plan, and likewise in inserting clauses in any treaty that may be made hereafter with Persia, so as to facilitate my great object,—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

WM. H. VILLIERS SANKEY,
January 10th, 1857. Civil Engineer.

THE ORIENT.

CHINA.

THE American and Russian Commissioner has arrived at Hong-Kong. The fleet was about to move into Canton River at the last dates. The French fleet will co-operate with the English. Operations against Canton are about to be commenced, and Yeh has issued an address to his 'braves.' The rebellion appears to be spreading, and to have gained the province in which Shanghai is situated.

The persecutions of the Chinese against the Christians are increasing.

CABUL.

The Cabul advices of the *Lahore Chronicle* are down to the 25th of October. Their correspondent writes that "on the 15th of October a letter was received from Golan Hyder Khan, at Kandahar, who informed Dost Mahomed that he had received intelligence from Herat, to the effect that Mahomed Akreem Khan, of Oochuckzye, had seized a number of his tribe and sent them prisoners to Herat. The tribe had consequently collected and attacked Mahomed Akreem Khan, at Subazwar, killing many of his men. On hearing of this, Sooltan Ahmed Jan, Governor of Herat, sent five hundred horsemen and two guns to the assistance of Akreem Khan." There has been considerable fighting between the Turkomans and the Persians.

EGYPT.

The steam-transport *Sultan* and *Nemesis* have arrived at Suez, carrying different detachments to the East, under the command of Colonel Mackirdy. Out of the 1100 men forming the detachments, only four were on the sick list, and these, it is affirmed in the despatch from Alexandria which brings the news, are not laid up with any serious indisposition. The arrangements for the transit from Southampton to Suez have been most satisfactorily carried out. The East India Company have also made arrangements, it is stated, for the passage of a thousand men a month across the Isthmus for Bombay and Calcutta.

PERSIA.

The Shah of Persia (says a telegraphic despatch from Marseilles) has invited the various ambassadors to be present at the coronation of his son, in whose favour he intends to resign. The English Minister, it is said, has refused to attend, making a reservation in favour of the rights of another heir to the throne, now a refugee at Bagdad.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MR. THACKERAY AND THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS. MR. THACKERAY presided last Saturday at the annual festival of the Commercial Travellers' Schools, held at the London Tavern. The eminent novelist made an admirable speech, full of humour and good feeling. After alluding to the commercial distresses and the commercial dishonesty of the present period, Mr. Thackeray said he wished that gentlemen of the literary profession had an institution for the education of their children as good as that the foundation of which they were then celebrating.

As it is, he remarked, the young ones of the literary Paterfamilias are generally victimized by some school-master of the Mr. Squeers order. He mentioned the case of a literary friend earning 1000*l.* a year, who the other day received a bill amounting to 75*l.* for the half-year's schooling and boarding of two little boys, of the ages of six or seven. "Now, think of this poor man earning his moderate 1000*l.* a year, out of which he has his life assurance, his income-tax, and his house-rent to pay, with three or four poor relations to support—for, doubtless, we are all blessed with these appendages (a laugh)—and with the heavy bills of his wife and daughters for millinery and mantua-making, to meet, especially at their present enormous rates and sizes—(renewed laughter)—think of this over-burdened man having to pay 75*l.* for one half-year's schooling of his little boys. (Hear, hear.) Let the gentlemen of the press, then, try to devise some scheme which shall benefit them, as you have undoubtedly benefited by what you have accomplished for yourselves." As a proof of the business habits of commercial travellers, Mr. Thackeray related an amusing anecdote connected with his last visit to America:—"The Africa was steaming out of Liverpool one fine blowy October day, and was hardly over the bar, when, animated by those peculiar sensations not uncommon to landmen at the commencement of a sea voyage, I was holding on amidsthips. (A laugh.) Up comes a quick-eyed, shrewd-looking little man who holds on by the next rope to me, and says, 'Mr. Thackeray, I am the representative of the house of Appleton and Co., of Broadway, New York—a most liberal and enterprising publishing firm, who will be most happy to do business with you.' I don't know that we then did any business in the line thus delicately hinted at, because at that particular juncture we were both of us called, by a heavy lurch of the ship, to a casting-up of accounts of a far less agreeable character." (Laughter.) He had parted that day from a very famous traveller, belonging to a celebrated publishing firm in Printing House-square—Mr. William Howard Russell. "He is now on his way to Marseilles. In another month he will be in India (cheers), and he will see the shattered gates around which the brave young engineers died at their duty, and through which Wilson and his gallant comrades passed over heaps of enemies, until they reached the Imperial Palace of Delhi, in which, amid shouts of victory, the health of Queen Victoria was drunk. That, gentlemen, was a melancholy dinner of his yesterday—his Christmas dinner, the last meal he was to take here at home. The little children sat round the table on that sad evening, and the poor wife must have gazed at them with a wistful eye. But now the parting is over, and this day he has taken his first step on his long journey. But for his children, he might have been among us now, gentlemen, as he was last year. He separates from them in order to do his duty—in order to toil that they may be comfortable—in order to earn the means of one day coming back to them, and seeing them growing up around him educated and happy." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Thackeray concluded by drinking prosperity to the schools established by the commercial travellers.

Various complimentary toasts followed, and a liberal subscription in aid of the charity was made by the company present. The treasurer stated that the building erected by the society at Pinner, which contains one hundred boys and forty-seven girls, has now been paid for and freed from mortgage, but that, while the annual expenditure of the institution amounts to 5000*l.*, the gross income is only 4327*l.*

STATE OF TRADE.

We have still to report a very stagnant condition of trade in the chief manufacturing towns, though in some there are a few symptoms of reviving activity. The Birmingham gun-makers are moderately active upon Government contracts, and two or three of the largest brass-foundry establishments of the town are doing a fair amount of business. The Nottingham trades, too, are a little more active, and some signs of returning confidence have been noted at Bradford and Halifax. Still, during the whole of the week ending last Saturday, the prevailing feeling was one of gloom, based on the small amount of business doing, and the numbers of artisans out of employ.

The South Staffordshire colliers, who have been out on strike for some time past, have accepted the reduced wages offered by the employers, and resumed work. This result was effected by an interview between some of the large colliery owners and a deputation of the men. The operative chainmakers near Cradley have turned out on account of a reduction of wages, and have committed some excesses.

A special meeting of the shareholders of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank was held last Saturday at Newcastle-on-Tyne, when it was unanimously agreed 'that the company be registered as a company other than a limited company, under the Joint-Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857.'

"In the general business of the port of London during the week ending last Saturday," says the *Times*, "there has been little change. The number of ships reported inward was 196, including 39 with cargoes of corn, rice, flour, &c., 19 with sugar, and 4 with fruit; the number of ships cleared outward was 94, including

17 in ballast, and those on the berth loading for the Australian colonies amount to 56."

The failures this week include—Messrs. Oliver and Sons, largely engaged in the lace trade, Nottingham; Messrs. William and George Crossley, cotton-spinners, Elland, near Halifax; Messrs. Crossley and Leeming, machine-makers, of Southowram Bank-bottom; Mr. John Mills, Haley-hill, Halifax, a machine-maker in a small way of business; Mr. Greenlade, corn-factor, of Bristol (an old established house); three suspensions in the woollen trade at Wakefield; Messrs. Lurton, Hooton, and Co., an old house of good repute in the Manchester trade, with liabilities for about 32,000*l.*; and Messrs. Hinton, Brothers, and Co., Italian merchants, of old Broad-street.

IRELAND.

SEPTOYISM IN THE COUNTY OF DOWN.—Under this heading, the *Northern Whig* reports a case of criminal assault on a girl at the Dundonald railway station. The circumstances are of a peculiarly atrocious character, the assault having been committed by three men, who repeated the offence, and kept the girl fastened in a room for several hours. They intoxicated themselves with whisky, and appear at length to have wrought themselves into a state of maniacal frenzy. They have been apprehended, and committed for trial.

MILITARY EMEUTE.—A series of very disgraceful fights have occurred between the Shropshire Militia and the 2nd battalion of the Coldstream Guards, on the one hand, and the 30th and 55th Regiments of the Line, on the other, all forming part of the garrison of Dublin. The disturbances spread, at intervals, over three days; but they are now suppressed.

THE MOORE TEA FRAUDS.—It is whispered that a patient investigation made by the Customs authorities into the late tea frauds has ended in the discovery of the fact that tea has been sold by several houses in Dublin, besides that of the fugitive Moore, without the duty having been paid.

AMERICA.

THE American papers appear just now to be chiefly engaged with the approaching war with the Mormons. The expedition is suffering severely from cold, and the cattle are dying very fast. The Mormons are said—but on doubtful authority—to have captured all the provisions, mules, and horses belonging to Colonel Johnston's army, so that the troops were absolutely obliged to march forthwith on Salt Lake City, or they would have perished by starvation in the mountains. The Mormons have fortified the passes, and plundered and murdered emigrants. They are reported to have determined on making a desperate stand, and on hoisting the English flag, if necessary, which they conceive will animate all those of English birth (of whom there are many) to fight to the very last. They state that they are in constant secret communication with the English Government, and that England would send an army to the rescue, if she could find any possible avenue! This preposterous story will of course deceive no one. Dr. Hurl, the only United States officer remaining in Utah after the flight of the other officials, has got off, and reached Colonel Johnston's camp on the Sweet Water. He was aided in his escape by a band of Utah Indians.

Walker, the Filibuster, and one hundred and fifty men, landed at Punta Arenas, in Nicaragua, on the 25th of November, without the least attempt having been made to prevent them, although the steamer *Fashion*, in which they had arrived from Mobile, passed under the stem of the United States sloop-of-war *Saratoga*. Only ten men exhibited themselves on the *Fashion's* deck when passing the sloop-of-war, and the nature of her freight was not suspected. It is stated that Lieutenant Cilley, of the *Saratoga*, who was on shore with two men, was ordered off by Walker, who, upon his telling him that he was an American citizen and had as good a right there as himself, replied that he had one hundred and fifty men to two, and that if he did not leave immediately he would arrest him. The Filibustering chief is said to be short of provisions, and it is anticipated that he and his band will be starved out in six weeks. After the men were landed, the *Fashion* proceeded to Aspinwall, where Commodore Paulding, of the United States frigate *Wabash*, attempted to seize her; but, finding her papers correct, he did not feel justified in taking any further steps.

Mr. Jarvis Slade, of the firm of Laurence Stone and Co., Boston, has attempted to commit suicide. His mind was much distressed by the difficulties in which his firm had been involved. A steamboat has been burnt on Red River. Fifteen to twenty persons perished.

Several of the dams in California have burst, and much damage has been done. Some convicts at San Francisco were unloading a wood barge, when it drifted away. The guard, thinking they were endeavouring to escape, fired a charge of grape at them, killing three.

Business in the various parts of the United States continues to recover from the depression caused by the late panic.

A horrible narrative has been published in the American papers with respect to the application of Lynch law

to an old man of Spanish blood, who was suspected (but it is thought wrongfully) of having stolen a horse from a Mr. Wolfkill, somewhere near Puta Creek, Sacramento. He was hunted down by Wolfkill and some other men, who said he must go before a judge. He expressed his willingness, but subsequently escaped to Vacaville, where the judge resided. Here he was befriended by an American lady; but his persecutors came upon him, beat him, and levelled a pistol at his head. The lady, who behaved with great courage and generosity, stepped between the old man and the weapon, and said he should not be murdered. At length, however, he was dragged to a tree, and hanged till he was nearly dead. "More than forty Americans," says the account, "witnessed the scene, and not one raised his voice. This is not the first outrage which has happened in that vicinity."

Tuckerman, the treasurer to the Eastern Railway, Boston, whose arrest at New Haven, Connecticut, on a charge of robbing a mail train, we have already noticed, has, it appears, carried on for the last few months a series of railway robberies, chiefly on the Boston and New York line. Nothing was known of these depredations until about six weeks ago, when several mails from Boston were missed, in consequence of which the postal detective police officers were put upon the watch. One of these, a special mail agent, named Holbrook, observed Tuckerman, one Sunday night, enter the baggage-car of a train which was about to start for New York from Boston. Holbrook therefore accompanied the train on its journey, and, having closely watched Tuckerman, saw him throw himself on the mail bags in the van, and lie there for some time, apparently asleep, when suddenly he jumped up, seized two small bags, and hastily slipped them into a trunk he had with him opening with a spring. It seems, however, that he must afterwards have been alarmed by something unusual about the bags, as he restored them to their place in the car before the train arrived at New Haven. He was taken into custody at the latter place, and, on being searched, several burglars' implements were found on him. The numerous railway robberies committed by Tuckerman, were contrived in a very subtle and ingenious manner. He managed to gain the favour and confidence of the various railway officials by his courteous and affable manners, aided by a liberal donation of cigars. By these means he secured admission to the baggage vans; and, watching his opportunity, when the men who had the care of them were otherwise engaged at the different stations on the line, he succeeded in plundering them of their contents to a considerable amount. Since last October, especially, the quantity of property abstracted has been considerably more than a hundred thousand dollars in notes and cheques. Most of these are supposed to have been destroyed; but a carpet bag belonging to Tuckerman, and containing a large amount of notes, has been found since his apprehension. His depredations among the letters destined for Europe were very great.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

That narrow and unchristian feeling is to be condemned which regards with jealousy the progress of foreign nations, and cares for no portion of the human race but that to which itself belongs.

DE ARNOLD.

FRANCE.

It is asserted that permission has been given to all the exiled generals to return to France, without condition of any kind. This is attributed to the intercession of Marshal Pelissier.

M. Charles Lagrange, the well-known Red Republican, who took a leading part in the insurrection at Lyons in the reign of Louis Philippe, and in the revolution of February, 1848, has just died at the Hague, after a long and painful illness. After the *coup d'état* of December, 1851, he was exiled.

Lola Montes has arrived at Havre from America.

M. Cauvaia, barrister at the Imperial Court of Paris, has been appointed by the Minister of State one of the barristers of the civil list and of the household of the Emperor.

"Some journals," says the *Spectator*, "have stated that Madame de Jeufosse and her children are about to take up their residence in Italy for a short time. We are enabled to contradict the statement, as Madame de Jeufosse and her sons have never had any intention of quitting their estate." The Marionettes Theatre at Cologne has brought out for its Christmas entertainment a new piece called 'The Jeufosse Family, or a True Tale of Domestic Life in 1857.'

Imperial decrees are published in the *Moniteur* con-voking the Senate for the 18th of January, and re-appointing M. Troplong its President for the ensuing year, and M. Mesnard, Marshal Pelissier, Baragney d'Hilliers, and General Regnaud de St. Jean d'Angely, Vice-Presidents.

The press has been 'invited' not to give particulars of duels, single combats having shown a tendency lately to increase. An 'invitation' has also been sent to the journals not to discuss philosophical and religious questions, for fear of giving the clergy offence. It is difficult to imagine what will be left for journalists to describe or debate if many more of these 'invitations' are issued.

Admiral Lugeal, at the head of a party of marines, has inflicted severe chastisement on the tribe of Taipi-Vahi in the Marquesas Islands, the last of the cannibal tribes of those regions. They had made an attempt to seize two young women belonging to the French mission, of whom they intended to make sacrifices. The admiral penetrated a thickly-wooded valley, rested for the night in the temple of the high priest, and next morning chased the savages into the woods at the point of the bayonet. He also burnt a good many villages. None of the marines were wounded, though the savages made use of muskets, with which they had been supplied, a short time previously, by some American whalers, who smuggled the weapons on shore.

Three journals in the French colonies of Guadaloupe and Martinique have been temporarily suspended, for having written in a sense displeasing to the authorities.

In the course of some works which were being executed the other day by M. Léon Fallou, on the estate called Manoir du Mont, the property of M. Crémieux, some vestiges of a Gallo-Roman village and burial-place were unmasked. A crypt, a subterranean church, galleries, and graves containing skeletons, were thus brought to light after their long obscurity. The architecture is very massive, and is said to belong to the Merovingian period.

With reference to the proposed revival, in a modified form, of the French slave trade, the *Daily News* writes:—"The Paris *Constitutionnel* of Monday, in an article signed 'P. Dubois,' throws off the mask on this subject; boldly defends the system which the French Government has adopted of purchasing negroes on the coast of Africa and carrying them to compulsory service in the French Antilles; argues that in no other manner can prosperity be restored to them; and ridicules the opposition of the English philanthropists. From this manifestation on the part of the leading Government print of France, the deplorable inference is that Lord Clarendon's remonstrances have utterly failed."

The Jeufosse story has been repeated. A youth of eighteen was in the habit of visiting a girl of sixteen in her bedroom at night. The father accordingly stationed his son in the room, armed with a gun; and, on the lover appearing at the window one night, he was shot dead. The father and son have been arrested.

"The disturbances at Appencourt between the municipal authorities and the curé of the place," says the *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent, "have at last come to an end. It may be recollected that the Abbé Dupont, who had formerly served as curé at Appencourt, having given offence to certain of his flock, had been removed to another diocese. A short time ago he was reinstated. This so annoyed the municipal authorities that in a body they resigned their posts. Seeing this, the ecclesiastical authorities gave in. The Abbé Dupont has been once more removed. This time, however, it is to the county gaol. The ecclesiastic is accused of 'resisting the authorities, and menacing his superiors.' The mayor and the municipal authorities have returned to their posts."

PORTUGAL.

The epidemic in Lisbon is reported to have ceased.

ITALY.

Count Cattaneo was recently killed in a duel near Paris, by Captain Froidefont, of the Guides; and the seconds of the Count have received notice not to return to Naples, to which they belong, as, if they do, they will be punished by hard labour at the galleys, according to a Neapolitan law in these matters.

"A sad and mysterious incident has occurred at Turin," says the *Times* correspondent of that city. "The well-known Count George Brembati, of Bergamo, was coming out of a house the other evening, when he received a blow which knocked his hat over his eyes, and a stab in the neck, which, however, is not a severe wound; finally, a blow in the side from an iron-shod stick, which has brought on bloodspitting. His assailant escaped, and made no attempt at robbery. The Count was bled thrice, and in the evening he was worse. Some arrests have been made."

The details which continue to arrive with respect to the late earthquake in the kingdom of Naples do not diminish the first vague reports of the vast dimensions of the calamity. Potenza, the capital of Basilicata, and the immediate neighbourhood, have been dreadfully shattered. The townships of Tito, Marsico, Nuovo, Laurenzana, and Brienza, have been almost destroyed; Pertosa, Aversa, and Auletta entirely. Two-thirds of Vignola have perished. Viggiano, Calvello, Anzi, Abriola, Bari, Ricigliano, Canosa, Padula, St. Pietro, Sala, Diano, Sassano, Sapri, and other places, have also suffered terribly; and the desolation and misery spread broadcast over a large extent of territory are such that the Government reporter uses the expression, "The pen falls horror-struck from one's hand." There have been some more slight shocks in the city of Naples, and great alarm has been felt. The Government has sent food and other necessities to the poor people who have been rendered homeless by the calamity; and the killed and wounded are being dug out of the ruins. The precise number of those who have perished cannot yet be ascertained; but it must amount to several thousands. A strange incident occurred during the shock experienced in the capital on the 19th ult. No sooner was it felt

than a horde of thieves and assassins rushed towards the Toledo, with a view to plunder during the confusion; but the gendarmes suppressed the attempt with their drawn swords. The people of the city, also, soon recovered their appetite for play, and thronged to the lottery offices as soon as the immediate danger was over. In the height of their terror, however, they called frantically on the saints for protection; and a report went about that the blood of St. Januarius had boiled—which seems to have been looked upon as a favourable symptom. Parkes, the English engineer confined at Salerno, had another of his nervous attacks after the great shock. The trial of him and his fellow prisoners will not commence till towards the end of the present month—some seven months after the commission of the imputed offence.

Some interesting ancient relics have been discovered at Ostia, in the Papal dominions; among them, a room built of alabaster and other stones, and exquisitely adorned.

With respect to the English engineers, the *Daily News* Naples correspondent says:—"There are several reports going about town which are worth recording. The first I received from a friend in this form:—A foreign minister told me yesterday that Signor Carafa, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, was showing a letter which he had received from Lord Clarendon, thanking him for the attention paid to the engineers." We trust it may prove that so injudicious an act has not been committed. The English papers publish some documents addressed by Acting-Consul Barbaro to the Earl of Clarendon, to the effect that the Neapolitan Attorney-General exhibits a strong animus against the English prisoners, and has even told untruths with respect to them; that the engineers state that all they did in connexion with the Cagliari affair was under compulsion from the insurgents; that our countrymen have been confined in close, filthy, and disgusting rooms during the hottest weather, fed on the worst food, handcuffed, kept for a long time from seeing their friends, and subjected to usage little short of torture; and that their health in consequence has seriously suffered. In fact, all the worst rumours are thus officially confirmed.

AUSTRIA.

A severe shock of earthquake was experienced at Agram, in Croatia, on the 20th ult. The undulating motion continued at intervals for a considerable time, and the noise (which lasted after the motion ceased) was of a rolling, metallic character, as of a heavy carriage passing quickly over a rough pavement.

M. Mertz, the officer who was in command of the fortress of Comorn at the commencement of the revolution of 1848, died at Vienna a few days ago. For some mysterious offence, of which people generally believe him innocent, he was deprived, about four years ago, of his military rank and honours, but, as a mark of great favour, was allowed a pension of three hundred florins. He was eighty-one when he died.

The Emperor has directed that the walls and fortifications of the inner city of Vienna shall be levelled, and the dry moat filled up. Proper measures for enlarging the city are to be taken without delay.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has been staying at Vienna. On Christmas Day, he and Sir Hamilton Seymour dined with the Emperor and Empress; and our representative at Constantinople had the honour of hauding the Empress into the drawing-room after dinner.

SPAIN.

The Infanta Doña Josefa, sister of the King, was nearly killed a short time ago, by her horses running away with her as she was driving out. She jumped from the vehicle, fell on the road, and received several cuts and bruises. Narvaez, who happened to be walking by at the time, stopped a gentleman's carriage, and had the princess conveyed to the palace in it. Singularly enough, this lady is the wife of Guell y Rente, with whom Narvaez is at such deadly enmity.

The *Gazette* announces that on the 25th ult. telegraphic stations were to be opened to the public at Cadiz, Almeida, Leon, Ciudad Real, and Reus, and that on January 1st the international lines of telegraph were also to be opened to the public.

The army is said to be seriously disaffected, owing to a belief that the new Ministry will not take advantage of the birth of the infant prince to curtail the period of service by two years—a boon confidently anticipated while Narvaez was in power. Seditious placards have been posted, and some apprehension has been felt.

Lord Howden, the English Minister, has returned to Madrid.

TURKEY.

An old wall, with several arcades of stone, which had been left standing after the late destructive fire at Galata, fell down a few days ago. Several shopkeepers had established themselves in the arches, and fifteen persons were buried in the ruins. Of these, only three were got out alive.

M. Boutinief, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, has declared, on the part of his Government, that the occupation by the English of the island of Perim, which took place about a year ago, is a violation of the integrity of the Turkish Empire.

A body of Turks have made an attack on about four

thousand Christians at a place called Trebigno, in Albania. The motive does not yet appear; but it is probably a religious feud, with which Prince Danilo seems to have had something to do. The Turks remained victors.

"The Ottoman Government," says a letter from Beyrout, "has concluded a treaty with an old officer of the French navy, for many years established at that place, for the formation of a good carriage road from the town to Damascus, with branch roads on different points, such as Zahle, La Bekaa, &c. The grantee takes on himself all the expense of the work, on condition of having the privilege of levying tolls on the road for fifty years. He also engages to convey passengers and merchandise at prices thirty per cent. lower than those now charged."

CIRCASSIA.

The Circassian chiefs have transmitted to the Governments of England, France, Austria, Prussia, Turkey, and Sardinia, a petition setting forth that the Circassians never consented to the cession of their country to Russia by the Treaty of Adrianople; that the Treaty of Paris established the neutrality of the Black Sea; and that Russia, in violation of the latter treaty, has closed the Circassian ports, on the plea of the absence of customs and quarantine regulations. The petition prays that the European powers will interfere and re-establish the rights of which the Circassians have been deprived by force; and the chiefs promise to keep the ports open to commerce, with the proper customs and quarantine establishments. A request is also made that European consuls may be stationed in these ports.

HAMBURG.

The commercial panic at Hamburg seems to have subsided.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Assembly closed its sittings on the 28th ult. The dispute which had arisen between the central authority and the canton of Vaud, and which at one time assumed a serious character, has been brought to an amicable conclusion.

The Federal Council has assigned the various Ministerial portfolios in the following manner:—General Policy, M. Furrer, president; Interior, M. Pioda; Justice, M. Kunsel; Military Affairs, M. Frey Herosée; Finance, M. Staempfli; Commerce, M. Fornered; and Post-office, M. Naef.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

A discussion took place in the Divan at Bucharest, on the 14th ult., on the much-debated question whether the Rouman nation is to frame its own electoral laws, without any interference by foreigners, or to submit them to the European commission. Alexander Gulesco and Jean Bratiano spoke in favour of the right of the Principalities to an exclusive arrangement of their internal affairs, and the Assembly came to the conclusion that the right is vested in them, and that in such sense is the clause worded in the reports and protocols of the Divan. Subsequently, two propositions were made by M. Petresco and M. Floresco respectively, both of which have been referred to the consideration of a committee of five. M. Petresco made the following proposition *d'urgence*:—"That the Assembly terminate its first series of labours by a letter of thanks addressed to the guaranteeing powers." M. Floresco proposed—"That the Assembly decide that this proposition *d'urgence* be the last that the Assembly admit." A. Gulesco, E. Predesco, A. Floresco, D. Ghika, and Tell, are named as the committee.

OBITUARY.

EARL SPENCER died suddenly on Saturday night at Althorp Hall, the family seat in Northamptonshire. A party of friends were spending their Christmas at his house, and, up to a few hours of his death, he had been apparently in robust health. He was a brother of the celebrated statesman, and had served many years in the navy, to which, indeed, he appeared to have been born, having first seen the light at the Admiralty, where his father at that time presided. He distinguished himself at Navarino and in the Morea during the Greek war of independence, but had not been afloat since 1828.

MR. STEPHEN MILLS, well known as an extensive agriculturist, died at Elston House, Wiltshire, on Monday week, from exhaustion after an attack of influenza with which he had been seized a fortnight previously.

REAR-ADMIRAL LE CRAS THORNBOROUGH died on Friday week, in the sixty-third year of his age.

SIR ALEXANDER DIXIE, a distinguished commander during the war with revolutionary and Imperial France, died a few days ago at Bosworth Park, near Hinchley, Leicestershire.

SIR FREDERICK G. FOSTER, Bart., connected with the diplomatic service for the last sixteen years, died yesterday week at Wimbledon.

MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES GRAY, of the Royal Artillery, died on the 21st ult. He distinguished himself at the Cape of Good Hope in 1806, and at other places during the war in the early part of the present century.

MR. RICHARD FURNESS, a local celebrity, on account of his poems, 'The Rag Bag,' and 'Medicus Majus,' died a few days ago at Dore, near Sheffield, where he long enjoyed the friendship of Ebenezer Elliott and James Montgomery. He was a native of Eyam, in Derbyshire, and originally followed the business of a carrier, but was subsequently a schoolmaster.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

ANOTHER POISONING CASE.

A MAN named John Thomson, alias Peter Walker, has been tried at the Winter Circuit Court at Glasgow on a charge of murder by poisoning, and of two other attempted murders. He was a journeyman tailor, employed by one James Watson at Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, and had paid attentions to Agnes Montgomery, the sister of Watson's wife. The girl repelled these advances, and, having learnt that Thomson was a returned convict, warned people against him as a bad character. On Sunday, the 13th of September, he returned to the house in company with her and his master's little girl—a child three years old—after having taken a walk, though apparently not with Agnes Montgomery, but only with the child. All three went up into one room, and shortly afterwards a person occupying another part of the same house heard a rumbling noise and a heavy thump on the floor of the room in question. Others heard a noise as of a body being dragged along the floor. Four or five minutes later, Thomson and the little girl left the room and came down stairs, and it was not long before a strange moaning was heard to proceed from the chamber. Several of the inmates of the house went thither, but Thomson had locked the door and taken the key away. Another key, however, was produced, and the room was entered. Agnes Montgomery was then found sitting in a chair, with her head leaning on a table. Her body was quite still; froth was issuing from her mouth; the left foot was swelled and stiff, and at times she threw back her head as if in distress. She gave several moans and sighs, and expired in about three-quarters of an hour. Previously to her death, one of the women in the house had said to Thomson, who was loitering about outside, "Oh, run for a doctor!" and he did so. A very powerful and sickening smell was observed in the room, and there is no doubt that this was the odour of prussic acid. Traces of that poison were found in the body of the dead woman on its being exhumed for the purpose of a *post mortem* examination; and it was proved at the trial that a carrier's boy had purchased some of the drug for Thomson the day before the death of Agnes Montgomery. Thomson had said it was for dyeing his hair, but told the boy to say to the chemist, if asked any questions, that it was required by a photographer. As Thomson went to fetch the doctor, he was observed to stoop for a moment or two at a certain tree, where the key of the young woman's room was afterwards discovered. Fragments of glass, as of a phial, were found along the road traversed by him on going for the medical man; and those who had passed that way just before had not observed any.

But the strangest part of the story has reference to a subsequent attempt on the part of Thomson to poison a Mr. and Mrs. Mason, with whom he had gone to lodge. On the night of the 25th of September (for up to that time no proceedings had been taken against him in connexion with the death of Agnes Montgomery), he went into Mason's room, and gave him and his wife, who were in bed, some whisky, which afterwards made them very ill—Mrs. Mason dangerously so. A portion of this whisky was subsequently analysed, and found to contain prussic acid; and the carrier's boy had obtained a second supply of the poison for Thomson on the 24th of September.

On the trial, the Judge would not allow some prattle of Watson's little girl, with reference to the death of her aunt, to be repeated by those who had heard it. The child was too young to be examined; but the evidence was so clear a character, that Thomson was found guilty of the murder, and was sentenced to death. He exhibited a very stolid demeanour during the whole of the trial.

The motive for the murder of the young woman may have been revenge for her having discouraged Thomson's suit; but in the case of the attempted murders, there seems to have been no reason excepting a morbid and almost insane love of poisoning for poisoning's sake.

It is said that Thomson has since confessed his guilt. The evidence which the little girl would have given, had the Judge permitted it, has been published in the Scotch papers. It is to the effect that Thomson gave the young woman the contents of a bottle which he had with him.

THE ASSIZES.

LAVINE LEIPCHITZ has been tried at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Assizes on a charge of purposely setting his house on fire, in order to defraud the Phoenix Insurance Company, with which he had insured the dwelling for 800*l*. The fire burst out in several places at once; Leipchitz and two women came out of the house partly dressed; and some things were found among the ruins which bore evidence of the presence of naphtha. The flames also had the character of naphtha flames, and Leipchitz made no efforts to put out the fire. His business was that of a pawnbroker; but some time before the fire he had told a tradesman in Houndsditch, London, that he wished to start as a waterproofer, and he was informed that to that end he must purchase a large stock of naphtha. Notwithstanding these facts, the jury found the accused Not Guilty.

MURDER NEAR DARLINGTON.—Michael Turner, a

collier near Darlington, has been killed in the course of a drunken fight by a man named John Murphy. They fought with hands and feet, said one of the witnesses at the inquest; and at length Murphy struck the other on the head with a coal-rake, and broke in part of the skull. Turner fell, asked for a drink of water, and shortly afterwards died. Murphy (against whom a verdict of Wilful Murder has been returned by the coroner's jury) has absconded.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER A POLICEMAN AT CARDIFF.

A French sailor, named Jules Lepault, has been apprehended on a charge of attempting to murder a police constable of the Cardiff force, named John Chaplin, who lies in an almost hopeless state at that town. The constable, having received a magistrate's warrant for Lepault's arrest, had executed it, and was conducting his prisoner to the station-house, when the Frenchman drew a knife and drove the blade into the officer's side. He then broke away from his captor, who, however, had the courage to pursue him, till the pain of his wound and the loss of blood compelled him to stop and seat himself on the shafts of an empty car, where he was found by another officer.

OBTAING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENCES.—A Mrs. Mary Weston M'Ghie has been charged before the Bath magistrates with obtaining from Mr. Wigins, a land surveyor, estate agent, and negotiator of money loans, the sum of 280*l*. on false pretences. She borrowed from him, at two different periods, the money in question, offering as security a freehold house in Grosvenor-street, a fourth part reversion in 2000*l*. Consols, and a life policy. She afterwards stated that she was acting on behalf of her niece, Miss Adele M'Ghie, adding that that lady was in great trouble, owing to her having a profligate father-in-law. Mrs. M'Ghie appeared greatly agitated, and on a subsequent occasion exhibited considerable emotion while stating that her niece had been induced to sign the name of a lady to some document for 250*l*., and that that sum was urgently required to prevent criminal proceedings. The money was paid over to her; but Mr. Wigins never got the deeds, and it was subsequently discovered that the story about the niece was false. That young lady also appears to have been kept out of the way. Mrs. M'Ghie was committed for trial.

THE WATERLOO-BRIDGE TRAGEDY.—A soldier at the Colchester camp, who recently deserted, and, after being brought back, attempted to strangle himself, subsequently made a statement to the effect that he and a woman were concerned in the murder of the man whose remains were discovered on Waterloo-bridge about three months ago. On the police interrogating him, he said it was all humbug; and, when brought before the Borough Bench, he made a similar retraction. He appeared to be mentally deranged, and was handed back to the military authorities.

MURDER AT OVER-DARWEN.—For some time past, an angry feeling has existed between two men belonging to Over-Darwen, near Blackburn, named Beswick and Marsden, owing to a dispute about some poultry. On Sunday evening, Marsden was passing by Beswick's dwelling, when Beswick rushed out, armed with a poker, and felled the other by a blow on the head. The ruffian then walked away, and Marsden was conveyed home, but died the next day. Beswick has been apprehended and brought before the magistrate. He seemed much dejected, and fainted during the examination.

MR. AUCHMUTY GLOVER.—An application was made to Mr. Henry, at Bow-street, last Saturday, to accept bail for Mr. E. Auchmuty Glover, late M.P. for Beverley, who was then an inmate of Newgate prison. Mr. Lewis, jun., of the firm of Lewis and Lewis, Ely-place, attended on behalf of Mr. Glover, who, it appeared, was apprehended on the 23rd ult., at 30, Colleshill-street, Fimlico, in pursuance of a warrant signed by Mr. Justice Coleridge. The sureties having been approved of, the ex-Member of Parliament left the court.

ASSAULT.—A man named Thomas Butler has been examined at Westminster police-court, charged with a murderous assault on Cornelius O'Sheen, a fellow-labourer and lodger. Butler was aided by his son, and O'Sheen was seriously stabbed in the face with a knife. The only motive alleged was that the injured man was in the habit of making a great noise in going up and down stairs. Butler was remanded.—A great many other cases of assault, some apparently from Christmas excesses in the way of drink, have come before the notice of the magistrates during the week. One of the worst has been a murderous attack committed by a person named Henry Jessop on Harriette Davis. He struck the poor woman on the head, first with a poker and then with a pair of tongs, knocked her down stairs, knelt on her stomach, and robbed her of some money. The man has been examined before the Worship-street magistrate, and committed for trial.

THE CHARGE OF ARSON NEAR BETHNAL-GREEN.—James Alfred Harman, the man charged with setting his house in Anchor-street, Shoreditch, on fire, has been re-examined at Worship-street, and discharged, the evidence not being sufficiently clear to lead to a conviction.

A CHILD SELLING POISON.—James Thomas Worley, a shoemaker, was discovered in Bull-lane, Stepney, last Saturday evening, supported by a young man, and evidently in great pain. From a paper in his hand, it

appeared that he had swallowed oxalic acid. He was taken to a surgeon, who administered an antidote, and on Monday he was charged at the Thames police-office. It then appeared that he had got his cousin, a child nine years old, to purchase the poison, saying it was to stain boots with. This child was served by another child, a boy about the same age, employed in his shop by a Mr. Hutchins, a chemist and druggist. The boy assistant said the other boy had once before come to him with a bad arm. Mr. Selfe, the magistrate, said it was very wrong in Mr. Hutchins to allow the boy to serve in the shop; upon which, Mr. Hutchins innocently stated, amidst much laughter, 'that he did not allow him to sell medicines of any description, or to prescribe for patients at any time.' An old man said that the prisoner (who is his nephew) was married on Christmas morning, and got intoxicated, and very much excited; and he (the uncle) was afraid he was the cause of all the mischief, for he ordered him out of the house. Inspector Allison said that the prisoner's wife gave birth to a child on Christmas-day immediately after the wedding. Altogether, a strange history! The man promised amendment, and was therefore discharged.

COMMITTAL OF A THIEF.—The man recently apprehended for trying to enter a house in Lambeth with a skeleton key, on which occasion he assaulted a constable and a gentleman who stopped him, has been sent to Wandsworth House of Correction for three months.

CHRISTMAS DRUNKENNESS.—The three days' holiday at the close of last week, and the supplementary festivities pretty generally made on the Monday, have, we regret to say, been productive of a vast amount of drunkenness. The police-offices have literally been mobbed by the number of persons brought up by the police on charges arising out of excess in ardent spirits. At Lambeth alone, these charges amounted to more than forty; and at the other courts they were very numerous. A most disgraceful case was brought forward at Westminster, where William Richardson, a shoemaker, was charged with misconducting himself at St. Barnabas Church, Picnic, on Monday evening. He went to the church, intoxicated, used violent language, threatened to stab the porter, and abused, in disgusting terms, all those who entered the edifice. When brought before the magistrate next morning, Richardson said he was thoroughly ashamed of himself. He was fined twenty shillings and ordered to enter into recognizances for future good behaviour.

RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS.—Henry Perry White, a marine store dealer, who has recently been charged at the Marlborough-street police-court with endeavouring to incite a policeman, left in possession of a house in Great Portland-street, which had been already plundered by a constable named Sankey, to a further robbery of the same premises, was again examined last Saturday at that office on a charge of having received a part of the property, knowing it to have been stolen. The man, who was discharged at his former examination, subsequently absconded, in consequence of which, suspicions were entertained that he must have been in some way connected with the robbery committed by Sankey, and, information being given to a police constable, White was apprehended after seven weeks' search, in a public-house at Kensington. While being taken to the station-house, he attempted to bribe the policeman who captured him to let him go, promising to pay him 5*l.* in three hours from that time, for his release. Several articles of bed and table furniture were afterwards found at his house, and identified as a portion of the property stolen by the policeman Sankey. Mr. Bingham committed White for trial.

ANOTHER POISONING CASE.—Inquiry is being made into the circumstances attending the death of Barbara Sagar, the wife of the master of the Keighley workhouse. Owing to various sinister rumours, the internment was stopped, and a post mortem examination of the body was ordered. Arsenic has been discovered in the body by Mr. Morley, of Leeds; and several persons have spoken to the fact of Sagar having ill-used his wife. The inquiry has been adjourned.

SHOOTING INTO A POLICE-OFFICE.—Early on Monday morning, while a clerk in the employ of the superintendent of police for the Pontefract division of the West Riding was sitting in the County Police-office in that town, on duty, a gun was fired through the window, but the charge fortunately missed the clerk's head and lodged in the wall behind him.

ILL-USAGE OF A SERVANT GIRL.—A girl named Susan Dean is now lying at the Islington Workhouse in a very precarious state, owing to injuries inflicted on her, as she states, by her mistress, a Mrs. Augusta Leigh, residing in Park-place, Liverpool-road. The girl has evidently been most fearfully hurt, and she has stated to the Clerkenwell magistrate that her mistress on several occasions struck her with a poker, a hatchet, a broom, and a brush. The inquiry has been adjourned, and in the meanwhile Mrs. Leigh has been admitted to bail.

CHARGE AGAINST A LOAN SOCIETY.—Two persons connected with an association called the Temperance Loan Society, with offices at 15, New Cut, Lambeth, were charged at the Southwark police-court on Thursday with an assault on a Mr. Kirke, clerk to a solicitor.

Mr. Kirke, conceiving that a widow whom he knew had been cheated out of a shilling by the society, went to the offices and desired to see the principals. He endeavoured to force himself in, and was assaulted by the persons in question with great violence. They were committed for trial.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

JOHN DOHERTY, the Liverpool bankrupt, has followed the example of Mr. Stephens, and has failed to reappear in the Bankruptcy Court for his adjourned examination, on the plea of his health having been broken down by the harassing nature of the cross-questioning. It was decided to further adjourn the examination for a fortnight, and to require, at the end of that time, a medical certificate as to the state of the bankrupt's health.

A strange attempt has been made by an American seaman, calling himself Johnson or Barker, to incite the soldiers of the 9th Regiment, stationed at Sunderland, to a political mutiny. He gave one of the privates, one evening in the streets, a letter, which ultimately found its way to the commanding officer, and proved to be an address to the soldiers of the regiment, exhorting them to proclaim a republic in the town. The writer promised that on the following night he would be before the barracks, ready to join the movement, which was then to commence with the disarming and securing of the officers and the appointing of fresh ones from the ranks. The letter was transmitted to the Mayor, who arranged that the following reply should be given to the man when he appeared at the appointed time:—"In answer to yours of yesterday, we, the soldiers of the 9th, are prepared to do our duty." The American was on the spot at the promised hour; the reply was given to him; and immediately afterwards he was arrested by some policemen in plain clothes, who were on the watch. On the police going to his room, they found a strong smell of opium, and a bottle labelled 'Laudanum—poison.' The man said he had taken a large quantity, but it had made him sick, and thus his life was saved. He is now under remand before the Mayor; but it seems to be pretty clear that he is crazed.

A Mr. Richard Potts was on Tuesday examined on a remand at Bow-street, on a charge of stealing a bill for 200*l.* entrusted to him by Mr. R. A. B. Jennings, for the purpose of getting it discounted. The prosecutor was subjected to a severe cross-examination, and made some admissions to the damage of his character. The defendant's counsel contended that Mr. Jennings had improperly obtained the bill from a Mr. Banks, and that Mr. Potts, on hearing that fact, determined not to advance on it any further sum, having already, as he states, given 20*l.* Mr. Potts was discharged.

"We understand," says the *Northern Ensign*, "that an action of damages for defamation was recently raised in the Court of Session by the Rev. Mr. Mackellar, of the Established church of Clyne, against his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, the damages claimed being 2000*l.*, and that a decree for that sum has been obtained, his Grace having failed to enter appearance. The ground of the action is said to be founded on a letter written by one of the Duke's agents containing defamatory statements regarding Mr. Mackellar."

The first meeting under the winding up of the affairs of the London and Eastern Banking Corporation was held on Wednesday at the chambers of Vice-Chancellor Wood, before Mr. Loman, Chief Clerk. The first subject brought under consideration was the amount of security to be taken from Mr. C. J. Stuart, of Threadneedle-street, and Mr. J. Ball, the official managers. Mr. Peachey (of the firm of Oliverson, Lavee, and Peachey, solicitors to the London and Eastern Bank, and to the official managers), said they proposed to give security to the extent of 11,000*l.* in each case, making a total guarantee of 22,000*l.* on behalf of Messrs. Stuart and Ball. Those gentlemen having both expressed their readiness to give security to this amount, it was agreed that they should enter into their recognizances. After some brief discussion, the meeting adjourned.

An action was brought on Wednesday at the Rotherham County Court by a workman at the Park Gate Iron Works against another workman for compensation for the loss of the plaintiff's eye, owing, it was alleged, to some carelessness on the part of the defendant. The jury gave a verdict for 15*l.* damages.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—All interest in connexion with the Court now centres in the marriage of the Princess Royal, some details of which we give in the ensuing paragraph.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.—A contemporary, devoting itself to regal and courtly doings, gives the following particulars of the arrangements for the marriage of the Princess Royal:—"The Queen, the Prince Consort, and all the Royal family, will return to town on Friday, the 15th of January. The nuptials will take place on the Monday week following (the 25th). On the Wednesday after the marriage, her Majesty and the Prince Consort will pay the newly-wedded Prince and Princess a congratulatory visit at Windsor Castle. The Royal party, including the bride and bridegroom, will return to

town on Friday, and a grand drawing-room will be held at St. James's Palace on Saturday, the 30th of January, to enable the aristocracy to pay their respects to the Prince and Princess. Two state entertainments will be given by her Majesty at Buckingham Palace, to which the Ministers and the great functionaries of state and the corps diplomatique will be invited, and a series of other entertainments will follow. The alterations at the Chapel Royal, in anticipation of the august ceremony of the 25th of January, are nearly completed. Arrangements are in progress to render some of the state rooms in St. James's Palace available for the more favoured visitors to view the marriage processions passing to the chapel. There will be three distinct processions before the ceremony—viz., that of the Queen as sovereign, that of the bride, and that of the bridegroom. After the ceremony, the Prince and Princess will proceed to Buckingham Palace, and, having exchanged their bridal dress for travelling costumes, will leave town for Windsor Castle. The Queen has not only retained a considerable portion of Claridge's and Farrance's hotels, but we believe it is her intention to retain a third hotel in St. James's-street, in order that the most ample accommodation may be secured for the continental visitors who are expected to arrive." Prince Frederick William will leave Berlin on the 21st of January, and the newly-married couple will start from London on the 2nd February, and, previously to entering Berlin, will pay complimentary visits to Belgium and Hanover. The public entry into the Prussian capital promises to be a very splendid affair.—Some official details from Windsor intimate that "the series of theatrical representations will take place at Her Majesty's Theatre, on Tuesday, the 19th, Thursday, the 21st, and Saturday, the 23rd of January, at which her Majesty, the Royal family, and foreign visitors will be present." There will also be a state performance at Her Majesty's Theatre on Friday, January 29th, at which the young couple will be present. On the 28th of January, at Windsor Castle, "her Majesty will hold a Chapter of the Garter, for the purpose of investing Prince Frederick William with this distinguished order. The Knights of the Garter attending the Chapter will be her Majesty's guests at the Castle, and will be present at a grand banquet to be given in honour of the occasion." On the 30th of January, the Queen will hold a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace, for the purpose of receiving congratulations on the event.

MINISTERIAL CHANGE.—Lord Harrowby has resigned the office of Privy Seal, on account of the state of his health, which renders it necessary for him to abstain for some time from all business. He is to be succeeded by Lord Clanricarde.

CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—The scheme for completing this structure has been abandoned for the present session. Some negotiations which took place between the provisional directors and the legal representatives of Mr. J. H. Greville Smyth, of Ashton Court, having proved abortive, sufficient time was not left for obtaining the amount required to be deposited in compliance with the Parliamentary standing orders, and the project has therefore been of necessity deferred for another year.

FIRE.—The premises of Messrs. Aubin and Co., tarpaulin cleaners, Battersea, were burnt down on Sunday afternoon. The flames originated in some of the goods falling on a pipe-stove.

PETTY FANATICISM.—A Turkish gentleman, named Mahmoud Effendi, a convert to Christianity, residing in Devonshire, recently became engaged to be married to a young English lady. The Chancellor of the diocese refused to grant a marriage license, and the convert then applied to the Rev. W. J. St. Aubyn, rector of Stoke Damerel, to marry him by banns. That gentleman published the banns; but on the second Sunday they were forbidden by the Rev. J. Bliss, Mr. St. Aubyn's curate, who subsequently served a caveat against the rector. Mahmoud was afterwards baptized, and the curate withdrew the caveat. Mr. Bliss is said to have had the support of the Bishop of Exeter, while Mr. St. Aubyn consulted, and received the sanction of, Dr. Addams. It is thought probable that proceedings will be commenced against the curate for the ecclesiastical offence of brawling.

PURCHASE OF THE SOULAGES COLLECTION FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—The Mayor of Manchester has invited the assistance of other corporate authorities in the seats of manufacture in the midland counties to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to purchase this collection, in order that it may be made useful in improving decorative manufactures in metals, pottery, glass, &c. A Union of Art-Trades has also been formed in the metropolis, consisting of most of the largest producers of decorative manufactures, in order to bring the purchase before Parliament as soon as it reassembles, and the Society of Arts has allowed the meetings of this union to take place in the Adelphi. Lord Granville, as President of the Education Committee, expressed himself quite favourable to the purchase when a deputation of the Institute of British Architects waited upon him; so that the question now remains wholly to be decided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lord Palmerston, doubtless in accordance with public opinion.

PRINCIPALSHIP OF GLASGOW COLLEGE.—This office, vacant by the death of the Venerable Dr. Macfarlan, has

been conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Thomas Barclay, of Currie.

THE EXETER HALL SERVICES.—The first series of Nonconformist services at Exeter Hall was brought to a close on Sunday evening.

THE SERPENTINE.—A correspondent of the *Times* suggests that the Serpentine should be cleaned and turned into a salt water lake, supplied by pipes along the line of rail from Brighton. Thus Londoners may have the advantage of sea-bathing in their own town; and the dust in the roads may be laid by salt water, which effects that object better than fresh. Another correspondent remarks that the mixture of salt and fresh water is known to be unhealthy.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A man, in passing the other day through Dulwich Wood, saw another man placing a rope round his neck, the other end being fastened to a tree. The passer-by hallooed, but the suicide threw himself off. He was immediately cut down, upon which he unfastened the noose from his neck, and ran off. He was secured by the police, and found to be mad.

PROFESSOR FARADAY gave on Tuesday at the Royal Institution the first of his annual course of lectures adapted to a juvenile auditory. The subject was 'Static Electricity.' The Prince of Wales took the chair—at sixteen years of age!

MR. SPURGEON, on Tuesday, opened a bazaar on a grand scale at the Surrey Gardens, for the purpose of raising funds towards the building of his new chapel.

EQUALIZATION OF POOR-RATES.—A meeting in favour of this object was held on Tuesday evening in the vestry-room of St. Andrew's, Holborn. Disapproval was expressed with reference to Mr. Ayrton's measure, as not going far enough, and it was resolved that the bill which had been framed by the committee of the association for promoting the desired object should be submitted to some eminent counsel for his opinion.

MR. LAYARD has arrived at Bombay.

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ELECTION.—The election for the county of Bucks (a notoriously Conservative shire) has terminated in the return of Mr. Cavendish, the Liberal candidate, by a majority of 163 over Captain Hamilton, his Conservative opponent. The numbers were—Cavendish, 1617; Hamilton, 1454. Captain Hamilton, in addressing the electors, exhibited some mortification at the result, which he attributed to his having been so late in the field.

A WORKSHOP FOR GIRLS.—The associative principle has been introduced in connexion with female labour in a way which appears to us to be highly commendable. A workshop of girls for the construction of art toys has been established for the last three years, and has just been brought under our notice by a lady interested in its success. It has not hitherto obtained as much patronage as we conceive it ought, owing to the tendency on the part of the English public to buy the toys manufactured by German artificers. We are informed that the playthings wrought by the dexterous fingers of this guild of English girls far exceed the German articles in beauty; and, if this be the case, and the prices be such as economical parents and relatives can afford, we conceive that the papas and mammas, uncles and aunts, of England ought to think more of their own fellow-countrymen than of foreigners. Certain special reasons for encouraging this undertaking are thus stated by a contemporary:—"First the principle that the employed should benefit by the commercial success of the business—that is to say, that they should not only earn wages, but have a beneficial interest in the profits, which it is proposed to place in the hands of trustees to form a marriage-portion for the girls, or be drawn out by them in adult age, according to certain regulations to be made. The second principle is, that the education of the employed should go on with steady and unremitting progress; so that, were the experiment to succeed, the workers would in due time become possessors of some money, and persons of well-stored minds."

STATE OF THE THAMES.—Mr. Gurney's recent report to the First Commissioner of Works on the state of the Thames (dated November 3rd) has just been published. Its chief recommendations have been thus summarized:—"Mr. Gurney recommends that all the retrogrades and brattice cesspools be destroyed; that all the obstructions to a uniform flow of the river at low water be removed; that the projections along shore be rounded off, and the hollows filled up; that the serrated edges of the river at low water be made plain and continued along the whole line of low-water mark; that the width of the water way at the lowest ebb be not more than one hundred and forty yards from side to side, so that the river may not only run in a uniform current, but at a minimum rate of two hundred and twenty-five feet per minute; and that from low-water mark upwards the beach be so constructed that the shore may rise at an angle of about three or four degrees with the horizon, or, in road-making parlance, of not less than one in sixteen, to facilitate the fall of the sewage into the bed of the river. The cost of this arrangement will not be so great as would at first sight appear, and the navigation of the river would be improved by it. As regards gaseous or aeriform sewage—a most deadly poison—Mr. Gurney suggests the destruction of the retrograde, the proper trapping of the mouths of the sewers, and the combustion of the noxious gases."

CHRISTMAS DINNER.—Miss Burdett Coutts gave an excellent dinner on Tuesday to three hundred poor

parishioners of St. Stephen's, Westminster. The Lord Bishop of London was present; also the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Viscountess Torrington, Canon Jennings, Messrs. Tennant, Garden, Pierpoint, A. F. Tracey, Major Cheetham, &c.

THE ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.—The resolution of thanks passed by the Manchester Town Council to the executive committee of the late Art Treasures Exhibition was presented on Wednesday afternoon, in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, at a *déjeuner* at which about eighty gentlemen were present.

THE FIRE NEAR BETHNAL-GREEN.—The coroner's jury in this case have returned an open verdict.

FIRE AT THE DUKE OF PORTLAND'S.—For some time past, the Duke of Portland has been in the habit of inhaling the vapour from a spirit-of-wine lamp, as a means of allaying the pain resulting from rheumatism in the hip. He was doing this, about half-past ten o'clock on Wednesday morning at his house in Cavendish-square, when the lamp was overturned, and the liquid set fire to the curtains and bedding. He was being attended at the time by the house steward, who, with much difficulty, got his Grace out of the room, though not without being a good deal burnt. The door of the room was then closed, and engines were sent for; but the fire was got under before their arrival.

PROPOSED BOROUGH FRANCHISE.—It is generally admitted that, in the boroughs at least, it has become imperative to admit to the right of voting many who do not reside in houses of 10*l.* yearly value, and who are yet fully entitled and competent to exercise the franchise. An educational test has been suggested. It is objectionable as a new element in this kind of legislation; it is invidious; it will render necessary new and complicated machinery; it will prove very costly and be always liable to mistrust and partiality. The reduction of the amount of qualification from 10*l.* to 5*l.* yearly value is the next favourite suggestion, but the admission of those residing in homes of 2*s.* a week value will not include, it is believed, practically a class more entitled to the franchise, or more qualified to exercise it, than those residing in homes of 1*s.* 6*d.* a week value. There is another and simple method which the committee formed at the King's Arms recommend for approval. It is this. Strike out from the last Reform Bill the amount of requisite value of the premises to be occupied in the borough. Instead of the person being required to be rated as now, let the required occupation be of premises which are rated. It is believed that the common practice in England and Wales is to rate all houses (not so in Scotland); but where Halsay's Act is in force, houses below 10*l.* a year in value are rated to the landlord, so that you cannot enfranchise in all parishes even 5*l.* occupiers without being exposed to perplexity as to the condition that requires them to be rated to the poor. If you admit all resident occupiers in rated premises to vote, the poor-rate book, whether under Halsay's Act or otherwise, will become a sure guide and a constant check to the register, and fix the premises with which the franchise is connected. Let the new statute recognize with more precision than does the present the right of 'joint occupiers,' 'tenants in part,' as our document calls them. Leave residence as it is now, within seven miles of any part of the borough; but strike out the objectionable arrangement that rates must be paid before the occupier can claim to vote. The act of enfranchisement ought not to do the work of a tax-collector. The practice and decisions of our registration courts have already given legal explanation as to the meaning and use of the words 'owner,' 'tenant,' 'occupation,' &c., all of which will be available for the interpretation of the new statute, if it follows in the wake of the old. It is not proposed to give the franchise to 'lodgers,' in the legal and technical sense of the word, as distinct from 'tenants in part'; but to those only who have exclusive possession of and uncontrolled access to the apartments which they hold. If our present registration law is preserved, it will still be needful that every person coming on the register must have held his qualification for six months prior to the date of his claim; the register on which his name is inserted is not in force till six months after the claim is made, and he must continue to hold his qualification up to the time of voting; so that here is a possession of the qualification virtually for twelve months before he can legally exercise his vote. If this law is continued, and no alteration in this respect is suggested by our committee, it will effectually restrict the franchise to the settled population only. In language that will be generally understood, it is proposed that every man shall have a vote who has a home of his own; whether it consists of one room or more, whether it is large or small, a house by itself or an apartment in a house.—*From a Letter by Mr. E. S. Pryce.*

THE WEST INDIES.—The question of Sepoy immigration has been considered in an extraordinary session of the Demerara Combined Court of Policy. His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Walker, having introduced the subject to the notice of the members, a long debate ensued, which ended in the adoption of four resolutions, the general upshot of which was that the Court pledged itself to make the necessary financial provisions, at the proper time, for carrying out the scheme. The Administrator-General, and the Hon. Messrs. Rose and Conyers, dissented from these resolutions.

THE MAYO ELECTION.—Lord John Browne was returned for Mayo on Wednesday.

THE SHREWSBURY PEERAGE.—Another claimant has now appeared for the title and estates of the late Earl of Shrewsbury in the person of William Talbot, a sailor on board the Callao, one of the Messrs. Brocklebank's ships, which has just arrived at Liverpool from Callao.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 2.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

THREE cases of fraud in Chili have come to light. A clerk of a business house in Santiago has been detected in appropriating his employer's funds, and no less than 100,000 dollars was said to have been spent by him at the gaming-table. In Valparaiso, a Mr. Bernal, a retail dealer, who for some time past had forged bills to meet his liabilities, has committed suicide by leaping from a boat into the sea. The amount of his forgeries is set down at 100,000 dollars. In the Commissary of Marines' office, a defalcation of 20,000 dollars has been discovered; the heads of the department were arrested until the matter was investigated.

The revolutionary party in the Republic of Bolivia has entirely triumphed. Dr. Linarez has been acknowledged Provisional President, and General Cordoba (the ex-ruler) has fled from the country. In Salvador, a number of violent shocks of earthquake have been felt at Copitipeque and the old city of San Salvador. From Nicaragua we learn that General Martinez had been elected President, only eight votes being given against him.

FRANCE.

The plenipotentiaries of the second Congress of Paris met in conference on Thursday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and exchanged the ratifications of the treaty relative to the boundaries of the Bessarabian frontier.

The Emperor has had a touch of the prevalent disorder, the influenza.

GERMANY.

"Great consternation," says the *Globe* Paris correspondent, "exists at Augsburg. The *Gazette* of that town informs Europe of some vampire in human form, who, with aid of chloroform, stupefies ladies at dusk in the streets, and cuts off their hair, without doing any further mischief. Latterly this scalp-hunter has been at his pursuit in the open daylight, and ladies go out attended by armed lacquies to obviate a rape of their locks. Dark mystery shrouds the affair, and the burgo-master is dumbfounded."

MURDER OF A CHILD.—James Brown, a bricklayer's labourer residing in Ramsay-street, Bethnal-green, was charged at Clerkenwell yesterday with causing the death of a little girl six years old by striking her on the head with a belt. The child was in the man's way, and was told to leave; but, not doing so at once, Brown struck her, and she ultimately died. He was committed for trial.

THE PARIS MODEL LODGING-HOUSES.—George Delanson Clark, the projector of the model lodging-house at Paris, applied yesterday in the Insolvent Debtors' Court to be discharged on sureties until March next, in order to proceed with an action against Mr. Kennard, merchant, from whom and the Baron Heekereu he claimed upwards of 9000*l.* The case is a remarkable one. The insolvent had a project to build model lodging-houses at Paris, and had seen the Emperor. The Baron Heekereu, a personal friend of the Emperor, interested himself, and advances were made by the French Government. Mr. Kennard, who is an iron merchant in Thames-street, had built the houses and had laid out a very considerable sum. The insolvent alleged that for his management and the office matters he was entitled to more than 9000*l.*; but Mr. Kennard denied that he owed Clark one shilling; in truth, he was a creditor. An action had been commenced by the insolvent, who wished to go on with the proceedings for the benefit of his estate. No objection was made on the part of Mr. Kennard, who was willing that bail should be taken to a small amount in order to facilitate the action. Two persons now tendered themselves as bail in 250*l.*, and were found sufficient. Mr. Commissioner Phillips accepted the bail, and the discharge was ordered to the 15th March, to try the action.

THE MILITARY OUTRAGE IN WESTMINSTER.—Two soldiers were examined at the Westminster police-office yesterday on a charge of being concerned in the disgraceful military riot in the Broadway to which we have referred in another part of to-day's paper. They were remanded.

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS IN ALL OTHERS, HOWEVER EXTREME, AN ALLOWED AN REPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—In a recent article upon our future Reform Bill, you say, "It is not for the Liberal party to receive the dictations of any Cabinet."

Insist upon this, and we believe the country will quickly endorse the sentiment, if only a full and impartial measure is propounded.

The people's bill will be no bill without electoral districts; and no bill short of an entire people's bill is worth another serious agitation; let us have no instalment, whether Russellite or Palmerstonian.

Advanced Liberalism is more with the non-electoral than the electoral body. Let a London or a Birmingham committee determine upon such a provision in its programme, appeal to the non-electors for support, and it must follow.

There is nothing that can be reasonably urged against such a division as shall give the vote to every man who has a 10*l*, or any other qualification that may be fixed upon, without reference to place or interest.

No proposal would be so likely to gain increasing and permanent support, because no proposal is at once so just, generous, and disinterested; and once the law, it settles for ever the people as leaders instead of the led. A VOTER.

A WORKING MAN ON THE CURRENCY.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

December 27, 1857.

SIR,—The *Leader* has ever stood forward as the defender of the peoples, and of political, civil, and religious liberty. Its advocacy has ever been steady and moderate, which has emboldened me to trouble you with a word on the 'question of questions.'

We know how to produce wealth when we have the means; and when those are taken from us we become helpless. The distribution is not so easily known; but the simpler the law for the regulation of wealth the better it will be understood. 'This vexed question has to be solved by theorists and practical men of all shades of opinion.' It is certain that, when gold is plentiful, trade is good, and workmen can find employment. On the other hand, when gold is scarce, trade is bad, and work not to be obtained. If the Act of 1844 be continued, the Government should guarantee a sufficiency of gold to carry on trade regularly. In the event of the run on the Bank of England having continued until the whole of the money had been abstracted, all trade would have been suspended, and we should have been reduced to an inconvertible currency. Whilst the Act of 1844 could not ensure the convertibility of one of the 14 million notes issued by law, I believe the country banks have the privilege of issuing 8 millions which have no representative in gold, making 22 million pounds of inconvertible notes.

Dr. DAVENANT (1698) says: "We had upwards of 14,000,000*l*. in tallies, lottery tickets, bank stock, malt tickets, and securities of the like nature, that went from hand to hand." Here, then, we have got the very sum fixed by Parliament, 'being the lowest sum possible to carry on trade with,' which was in circulation above a century and a half ago. With our extended commerce, shipping, railroads, manufactures, population, and trade in general, no wonder that so many are on the point of starvation. It is something after the fashion of endeavouring to put a hen into its embryo shell.

What we want is an extended currency, based on some secure foundation—say the Crown. If gold-lovers will not give up their crotchet, let it remain as an indicator for gold, imported and exported. But let us, in the name of humanity, have an extended internal currency. Yours truly,

25, Windsor-street, Liverpool.

A. ROBINSON.

DEATH OF A MANIAC.—An inquest has been held at Bethlehem Hospital on the body of Mr. Hugh Pollard Willoughby, aged fifty-six, a gentleman connected with the family of Sir H. P. Willoughby. He was removed to the asylum under peculiar circumstances. In the year 1854, in the course of a trial at the Old Bailey, he persisted in interrupting Mr. Giffard, who was addressing the Court, and he was ordered into custody, but ultimately liberated. Afterwards, he attempted to shoot Mr. Giffard; and for this he was tried and acquitted on the ground of insanity. The jury returned a verdict of Natural Death.

THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUSTRALIA.—The last advices from Victoria state that the plethora of labour is fast disappearing from Melbourne.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Several communications unavoidably stand over.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1858.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

THE STORY OF 1857.

THE past year was memorable—and history will say it was rendered memorable by its disasters and its crimes. There have been two splendid illustrations of patriotic virtue—heroism in the East, charity at home; but both had their origin in calamity. Deduct the tragedy, and what remains, historically, of 1857? Bloodshed in India, China, Persia; murder, suicide, fraud, signaling our domestic annals; the poor grievously in want at Christmas. Omit these points—the Chinese and Persian wars, the menacing diplomacy of America, the Sepoy rebellion, the grotesque antics of despotism on the Continent, the Bornean massacre, the mysteries of wickedness disclosed by the apocalypse of accident, the commercial crisis and working-class distress—and the calendar now ended would deserve little distinction in the chronicles of the world. The new reputations that have sprung up belong exclusively to India; soldiers and administrators have emblazoned their names, but among ourselves not a fresh sign of political or literary promise has appeared. We have great men, and flatter or neglect them according to the fashion of the day, but they have not multiplied during the year 1857. The time has been one of anguish and trial. Suddenly, in the east of the world, where our dominion seemed most secure, where English ladies sank into Oriental ennui, where English children played among white cupolas and tufted palms, the Genius of Murder possessed a hundred thousand armed men, and, for a season, half the empire was desolate. Swarms of savages, commanded by spectral Holagous, seized upon young girls and infants, and with wanton fury lacerated, outraged, humiliated, and slew them, so that the marble steps that beautify the banks of the Ganges were literally red and bright with Christian blood. This great curse fell upon our nation suddenly. The writing on the wall had been long visible; but we had silenced the prophets of evil, and were only convinced of our danger when hundreds of Englishwomen lay naked and dead in the Sepoy shambles. For a moment we gazed idly at the lurid flashes of the storm, and the clouds that blackened about our heads; but then came the revelation of British valour, and every man doing his utmost, a most glorious rush to the rescue was made by soldiers and civilians of all classes in the East. An army was sent from our shores; but while forty thousand men tossed on the sea, battalions

did the work of legions, and no marble or gilded monument of princes will outlive their fame. Almost throughout Asia, indeed, there has been a struggle between Oriental ferocity and Western courage. In Persia, the country of cavalry, a few British regiments broke up the hosts of the Great King; in China, though still linked by commerce with England along a large range of coast, a conflict is approaching at one of the chief cities of the empire; Singapore narrowly escaped a Chinese revolt; in Borneo, English civilization was only saved by the riotous impetuosity of its enemies. There has been a general attack—but it has been generally defeated. The title-deeds of our Asiatic dominions have been proved valid; but what if the inheritance be wasted? Is our grasp of India to be merely muscular, or intellectual and beneficent?

The year brought with it marvellous events, and has initiated remarkable agitations. The East India Company has been summoned to show cause why it should not cease to exist, but it would be rash to predict that 1858 will witness the close of its career. The Bank Charter Act, around which stand mountains of shivered lances, is in no great danger of innovation. The old Reform Bill is only waiting for judgment and execution. Three main lines of legislation branch off from the first of this new January; and much of the responsibility belongs to 1857. We have had a dissolution of Parliament, a general election, three legislative sessions, and a Divorce Bill; France has had a general election after her kind; Spain several intermittent spasms, and a new scandal in the shape of a Royal Prince; Switzerland a negotiation with Prussia; the North a quarrel with Germany; and Italy several of those convulsive attacks which, slight in themselves, seem to prove how incurable is her disease. Russia keeps heavily and slowly upon her ancient career, the Emperor arraying the serf population in his favour; Turkey rots; Greece is forgotten, and Berlin marshals a phalanx of maidens in white garments to welcome our Princess Royal. We shall, this month, jostle illustrious personages at every step at the West-End; but we have had visitors of that degree already—a French Emperor and Russian Grand Duke at Osborne, and a French Prince everywhere, except in London.

Two Dukes, a Marquis, ten Earls, three Viscounts, two Bishops, and five Barons have become 'cofined clay' since last December. Thirty-one Baronets also have died, and twenty-three Knights. The poor lament the kind Duchess of GLOUCESTER; diplomacy piles mortuary scandal over the memory of the Princess LIEVEN; Baron ALDERSON is regretted by the law; NEILL, NICHOLSON, WHEELER, HENRY LAWRENCE, NORMAN LESLIE, and PARKER, are mournfully remembered by their brothers-in-arms; literature has lost JERROLD, ALFRED DE MUSSET, BÉRANGER, and EUGÈNE SUE; patriotism recalls the names of MANIN and CAVAIGNAC. From the House of Commons nine members have disappeared. We have welcomed home LIVINGSTONE from Africa, ATKINSON from Siberia, BROOKE from Sarawak. America has saluted a new President; Portugal has blessed the benevolence of her youthful King; and the House of Peers has exchanged courtesies with Baron MACAULAY. A wistful woman has made a last effort for FRANKLIN, and who knows upon what her voyagers were gazing on New Year's Day? We have taken lessons that should moderate our sanguine expectations; the inertia of the Leviathan is not yet conquered; the broken Atlantic cable is coiled up on shore. SPURGEON fails to draw funds for his monster tabernacle, and HANNA works no

moral renovation in Belfast. The Dublin police are beaten in their own field by a murderer; MADEIRAINE SMITH, with unabashed eye, walks out of court; the Bramhall tragedy is left in darkness; not a glimmer of light has broken into the bloody den where that man was murdered whose fragmentary remains, discovered on Waterloo-bridge, created a nine days' horror in the midst of London. Blind Justice was many times cheated in 1857. Not by assassins only. Men on whose faultless linen no speck of blood has ever fallen, who have used poisons more subtle than those of Italy, and weapons more fine than the stilettos of Venetian revenge, have robbed the widow and orphan, and done worse than murder, and have been spirited away by medical certificates, or screened by the custom of the country. A penal establishment, after all, is a parliament, and convicts are but the representatives of classes. Mr. HENRY S. BRIGHT is the delegate of the forgers, and BEALE and THOMPSON are condemned in the name of the undetected.

Promote Social Science, says a new League at Birmingham, born A.D. 1857. Well, the book of 1858 is open. Record only our actual progress, and how many pages will be filled before another New Year's Day?

THE RELATIONS OF THE BANK WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

NECESSITY is a stern and unnatural parent; at least she often appears to be so, frequently treating her offspring very harshly, or seeming to neglect them altogether—leaving them to chance and to shift for themselves. But she has produced many distinguished children, of which Invention is reputed the eldest and most famous; other noble sons she has had, and at least one daughter, far advanced in years, and till now thought to be in danger and extreme distress; we mean the old lady in Threadneedle-street, lately an object of tender solicitude throughout the world.

Her birth and parentage were mean in the extreme; the bill which called this great institution into existence was entitled 'An Act for granting to their Majesties several duties upon tonnage of ships and vessels, and upon beer, ale, and other liquors,' its real object being to raise a million and a half of money to supply the pressing wants of WILLIAM III. Under this Act the Bank of England was formed, and the duties above mentioned were pledged to the new corporation as a security for the advance made to the King, who gained not merely the ready money of which he stood in extreme need, but also the adherence and support of a large number of influential and wealthy citizens, whose personal interests thus became identified with the new dynasty. The experiment was too successful not to be quickly repeated, and a most intimate and close alliance grew up between the corporation and the Government, greatly to the advantage of both. WILLIAM obtained extensive money support, and the Bank prospered under court favour, a creature of the State, entirely devoted to the cause of the new monarch, and dreading above all the return of the STUARTS. It became 'the stronghold of the Whig party, and the bulwark of the Protestant succession.'

In return for the zealous and effectual support rendered to the King the corporation secured an entire monopoly of banking. No other bank of any kind whatever was to be suffered, countenanced, or allowed within the kingdom. A few years later this concession was modified to the extent that no bank could be started having more than six partners—thus effectually hindering the formation of

any banking company—which condition remained in force until our own time. Gradually the exclusive privileges of the Bank of England have been reduced; as the new dynasty became more firmly established the political aid of the Bank was less and less required; every renewal of the charter was effected with diminished advantage to the Bank, and at present we see the corporation perfectly independent of Government control—an ally, but not a servant, of the executive of the country.

There appears to be an impression in the minds of a large number of persons that even now there is a connexion too intimate between the Government and the Bank. Mr. GLADSTONE seems full of the idea that the relations existing between them are superannuated and antiquarian; he considers this notion of his to require the attention of the House as much as any question can do; and yet with that extraordinary tendency to false conclusion which places this brilliant orator below many a dull man on practical subjects, he votes against an inquiry into this and kindred subjects. Probably he knows too well that when an examination comes to be made, this assertion will be found, like many others that have preceded it, to be mere declamation.

The Bank is at once the financial agent of the Government and the depositary of the public balances. In the first capacity it controls the issue of the paper circulation of the country; it manages the national debt, it pays the dividends to the public, it assists in the collection of the revenue. These various operations, conducted by a board consisting of some of the ablest commercial men in London, are effected in the most complete manner, and with far greater economy than if they were managed by a department of the Government. The profit to the Bank upon this portion of the public business is less than a quarter of a million; for which sum it not only ably effects all that is required, but it relieves the Government of a considerable amount of risk.

It also acts as banker to the State, and in this respect its operations scarcely differ, except in their magnitude, from those of private bankers towards individuals or commercial firms. All salaries, pay, allowances, Treasury bills, and payments of every kind, which every department of the Government has to make, are effected by drafts on the Bank; and the remuneration is found in the old-fashioned mode of employing temporarily a portion of the balances. In exceptional times like these, when the Bank holds eight-and-twenty millions of private securities, discounted at a high rate of interest, this is a source of considerable profit; but there are times when it is extremely difficult to put out in a legitimate manner any large amount of the deposits. Occasionally it happens that the Government balances are insufficient to meet payments falling due; then the Bank becomes a lender to the Government, receiving interest for its advances in the same manner as if the loans were made to an individual. All this is the very reverse of mysterious; it is just what happens to many of us—sometimes we have a little money to spare, and it lies idle in our bankers' hands; at others, our wants are greater than our balance, and we borrow on adequate security. But, for some reason or other, Mr. GLADSTONE is anxious to find fault with the Bank. While he was in office, he succeeded not only in making himself extremely unpopular in the City generally, but he contrived to get up a disagreeable correspondence with the Bank on the subject of the public accounts, the Governor charging him with innovation, and keeping what is commonly called a very shabby account. Now

Mr. DISRAELI's new ally would introduce 'a new housemaid to the Bank, to sweep away the cobwebs,' being haunted, probably, with the notion that the Bank is now, as it was in WILLIAM III.'s time, a stronghold of Whiggery and a bulwark of Protestantism, which it is his mission to destroy. The only explanation that he has given of what he means by superannuated and antiquarian relations is, that when a loan is made a clause is inserted in the bill that the Bank shall be a perpetual corporation until the loan is repaid. By omitting a few words, he conveyed to the minds of the House and of the country an impression altogether erroneous. It is stipulated in the bill that the payments on account of the loan shall be made to the officers of the Bank, and that the dividends shall be paid by the same agency. These are part of the conditions of the loan; and in consequence it is provided, in a subsequent part of the bill, that the Bank shall continue a corporation for the purposes of this Act until the loan is repaid. Its exclusive privileges might be taken away, its notes might no longer be a legal tender, as a bank it might even cease to exist; but as an agent of the Government, charged with the management of the debt and with the payment of the dividends, it would still remain a corporation, but with powers limited to this object.

There is probably no particular reason why such a form should be retained. Formerly, when the system of loans was novel and only imperfectly understood, such a clause was no doubt considered to give additional security to the lender; but no such guarantee is now required, and the form might be safely dispensed with, just as many other forms which have ceased to be of value have quietly passed into disuse.

Unless some stronger charges can be brought against the venerable lady than this, the verdict of the country will be unanimously in her favour. The evidence of practical men speaks volumes for the liberality and skill displayed in the management generally. In every time of pressure the Bank has come forward in a very spirited manner, and has afforded relief to all solvent houses to the very uttermost. It is of no political nor religious party; it looks simply to the character of the house seeking assistance, and to the security offered. And it must not be forgotten that the means of the Bank, though ample, yet still have a limit; it can no longer issue notes at discretion, as was formerly the case. Its till has been replenished by the sale of Government securities at a considerable loss to itself in order to assist struggling firms. It now holds only five and a half millions Government securities, having disposed of not less than three millions within the last three months. As Consols are now eight per cent. higher than they were in the middle of November, it is not difficult to form a fair notion of the sacrifices the Bank of England has made with the view of sustaining public credit.

Indeed, the public have by this time pretty generally made up their minds to the fact that there is nothing very far wrong either in our currency or in the Bank's management of it. Some of the details may be safely and even wisely altered; but the source of our recent troubles is to be found not in defective currency regulations, but in the want of scrupulousness among modern traders, in the determination to make money—honestly if they can—but at any rate to make money, which has grown to be a national infirmity, against which the united power of the pulpit, the platform, and the press must be unceasingly directed, if our country is to retain its character for truth and honesty and moral worth among the nations of the world.

THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

THE latest news from India is of a more purely satisfactory nature than had been received by several preceding mails. The extrication of our women and children from their perilous state of siege in the beleaguered Residency of Lucknow, is an event that will have been hailed throughout the land with a feeling of thankfulness as deep as was the sterner sense of joy that greeted the announcement of the fall of Delhi. A result that was felt to be well worth any sacrifice, has not, of course, been achieved without very considerable losses; it required five days of hard fighting to obtain for us even a temporary possession of the Oude capital. The present Commander-in-Chief of India had long earned for himself the character of a careful general and a skilful tactician; and the whole tenor of his operations evinces a desire to be as chary as possible of throwing away valuable lives. Sir COLIN's mode of approaching, and forcing his way through densely populated suburbs, appears to have been alike judiciously planned and scientifically executed. He well knew, that a formidable enemy was to be encountered on his own chosen vantage ground (for nowhere does the Asiatic fight so well as in crowded streets, or sheltering enclosures), and no precaution was neglected that might tend to ensure success. The resistance of the insurgents was most determined. At no period of the campaign have the mutineers exhibited greater obstinacy in maintaining their positions. This desperate tenacity, indeed, has in a marked degree characterized the rebellion since the main contest was transferred to the native soil of the Sepoy in Oude. Some censure has been hinted against the Commander-in-Chief for having rashly exposed himself in the assault on Lucknow, as evidenced by the fact that he, and also several of his staff, figure in the list of wounded officers. As a general rule, there is no denying the position laid down by those who blame Sir COLIN in this particular. We believe, however, that the occasion was one that fully warranted a departure from the laws of routine; and we rest assured that Sir COLIN CAMPBELL merely obeyed a similar conviction. A cautious leader, and, as we have already intimated, a skilful tactician—a man, too, whose years might well have tempered youthful rashness, no carpet knight, whose spurs were yet to win, but a soldier of approved personal bravery—would hardly have acted as our Indian chief is reported to have done, unless he had been fully satisfied in his own mind that the leader's immediate presence was indispensable at the post of danger.

We have spoken above of the British occupation—that is, the lately achieved recovery of Lucknow—as being, perhaps, only temporary. In truth, the main and obviously most urgent end of Sir COLIN CAMPBELL's hasty departure for the scene of action, was attained as soon as he had rescued and placed in safety the burdensome convoy of sick and wounded, women, children, and camp followers that were congregated in the Residency and at the Allumbagh. These are now out of harm's way, being safely disposed of at Cawnpore. But we are already beginning to realize the great mistake fallen into by those who fancied that the warlike population of Oude could be subdued with a force of little more than 10,000 effective troops; or even that such a force could permanently hold its chief city, whilst all the surrounding country was up in arms against us. If we may trust the view of things adopted by the Calcutta journals just received (and it certainly appears to be a very just view), the

Commander-in-Chief had before him a choice of two distinct evils. Either he could, while there was yet time, relinquish his dangerous acquisition of Lucknow, and retire upon Cawnpore; or he might fortify himself in one or more positions, and stand a siege—just as OUTRAM and HAVELOCK did before; only, *minus* their non-combatant encumbrances—pending the advent of further reinforcements. Of these two courses, the former would certainly involve a manifest loss of prestige; whilst the latter would entail the ill effect of isolating the chief military authority at a period when his counsels might be most in request. Sir COLIN is reported to have applied for definite orders on this head. In the meantime all available troops are being pushed on towards the North-West, as quickly as circumstances will allow them to be moved.

The military operations in Central India do not yet exhibit any features of great interest; and in Rohilund the mutineers still exercise uncontrolled authority. It is generally said that the regiments in Lower Bengal disbelieve the reduction of Delhi; and it is certain that the three companies of the 34th N.I., whom the tortuous policy of the Calcutta bureaucracy insisted on maintaining (in arms) at Chittagong, when their brethren were disbanded at Barrackpore, broke out in mutiny on the 10th of November, and marched against Dacca. We are truly sorry to notice a General Order, purporting to emanate from the Commander-in-Chief, in which the most ridiculous distinctions are attempted to be drawn between individual Sepoys absent and others present with their regiments, between those who purposely and those who accidentally exceeded their leave, between those who were more and those who were less guilty of rebellion. If one tenth part of the exemptions founded on such subtleties should ever come to be recognized, the whole moral of the Great Bengal Mutiny will have been forever lost. It is even alleged that some of the disarmed regiments are being redrilled *bodily*. Can this be true? If it be true, it is certainly monstrous; and we do sincerely hope that, at the proper time and place, such questions may be propounded to the Indian Executive at home as will elicit the authority under which such a suicidal absurdity has been perpetrated.

WALKER!

WALKER has escaped, with his expedition, from the vigilance of the United States officials, has landed, and is again in full career on the field of Central America. This time the truth is too transparent for our English writers to be prepared with any direct accusation of the United States Government; they limit their attacks to WALKER, but write at President BUCHANAN and his coadjutors, implying all kinds of censure because WALKER has left one part of the American continent for another. Now there is not only a total absence of any case against the United States Government, but there really is nothing very serious to complain of in the whole affair. Let us see what WALKER has done.

His latest adventure is really up to the right filibuster standard. It will be remembered, without a lengthy recapitulation of his previous doings, that WALKER's fortunes were not very long ago represented as being about as bad as they could be. His expedition had failed. His men had deserted him, and returned to their homes—those who had any—in starving and ragged knots. As for himself, the prevailing belief was that, by some means, he had found his way to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, and there

was an end of him. Very good. We wait for the next number of the romantic tale without a particle of misgiving as to its interest being sustained.

Behold! It is May in New Orleans, and to all it is notorious that our hero—yes, Filibuster Walker—is boldly and rapidly organizing another expedition to Nicaragua. But the task is the work of months, and it has gone on uninterruptedly till September is reached. Then there is some talk among the administrators of such work being supposed to be going forward, and that it is against the laws, and, therefore, must be looked to—nay, in consequence of some uneasy representations made by the Central American Ministers at Washington, positive orders are directed to be given to prevent the landing of the supposed expedition on the Nicaraguan coast. The orders are very soon issued to the officials concerned at the ports of New York, New Orleans, &c., calling upon them to use their utmost vigilance to prevent any infringement of the neutrality laws by an expedition 'so manifestly prejudicial to the national character, and so injurious to the national interest.' The officials all stand upon the *qui vive*; above all, no precious time is lost by them in looking after this nefarious undertaking. By the 11th of November—our hero having thoroughly completed his work of preparation—the United States Marshal has him before the United States Circuit Court at New Orleans, and gets him held to bail in the sum of 2000 dollars to appear in five days from that time to answer for his present conduct. Our hero gives the required surety and—like a bold filibuster as he is—in less than twenty-four hours is on his way to Nicaragua.

The American coast is guarded by Government cruisers; the filibuster chief goes a little out of his way, and altogether out of theirs, and safely embarks with his one hundred and fifty followers, armed to the teeth, at Mobile. In due course, he nears the tempting land. He tries the Colorado; but, for some cause not stated, his vessel cannot enter that river. The San Juan, then, is the only inlet; but in the port of Punta Arenas lies the United States sloop of war Saratoga. Can a filibuster be without an expedient? His little ship boldly approaches; she has ten men upon her—the most unlikely-looking men you can conceive; she passes close under the stern of the watch-ship without exciting a second look from the watchers on board. The innocent newcomer makes her quiet way right up to 'Scott's Wharf, opposite Greytown,' and then, in the full light of day, 'General' WALKER, late President of the State of Nicaragua, &c., lands with one hundred heavily-armed men—having previously landed fifty at the mouth of the Colorado. And there he is, in spite of treaties, and neutrality laws, and Mr. BUCHANAN's message.

The terms of that message are quite explicit. Mr. BUCHANAN says:—

"It is one of the first and highest duties of any independent state in its relations with the members of the great family of nations to restrain its people from acts of hostile aggression against their citizens or subjects. The most eminent writers on public law do not hesitate to denounce such hostile acts as robbery and murder."

Let us ask ourselves what Mr. BUCHANAN could do? We judge these matters too much by the standard of our own manners and customs. Here in England, such a man as WALKER would have no chance. The only thing he could do to make a stir would be to get up a more tremendous Joint-Stock Banking swindle than any we have yet seen; but, at the best, the thing could not be done with any great amount of true filibustering dash. If, leaving Joint-Stock swindling to men of delicate health and less daring spirits,

he were to determine to go in for a little slice out of France, or Spain, or Holland, and were to charter a vessel in the port of London, or Bristol, or Liverpool, were to arm and man her with an unusually large crew composed of the most reprobate and lawless of the black sheep of any one of those towns, and were all the while to make the most open avowal of the purpose for which he was taking all that pains—why the paltry custom-house officers and the contemptible police with their staves in their coat-pockets, would walk on board and take possession of the 'gallant bark,' and walk off her daring crew to the nearest station-house; so the adventure would be knocked on the head. And it would be pretty much the same anywhere but in America.

On that continent, almost without exception, the population is scanty in proportion to the territory occupied; especially towards the bounds of each state is the authority ill defined. If you were to seek the exact opposite of an estate within a ring fence, it would be an American dominion. The habits of the people harmonize with this state of things. There is an absence of defined position in the arrangements of society, as well as in the territory. Numbers of strong men are continually transferring themselves from one occupation to another. The democratic government precludes the exercise of any arbitrary police vigilance, even more than in this country; and that is saying everything. The consequence is, that it is perfectly impossible to restrain any given number of men who agree to rendezvous for a certain enterprise and to undertake it. If they attempted their blows within the territory of the United States, it would be not so much the Executive that would put them down, as the citizens, who are, like our own militia, or our special constables, the ultimate resort of the Executive. But the special constable cannot be employed abroad; and a conspiracy whose object is centrifugal escapes any machinery by which the United States Government could control it.

Dismissing from our minds, then, the notion that the Government of President BUCHANAN could have restrained WALKER as it would have done, we are driven to ask whether, after all, the new expedition to Nicaragua is anything so extremely shocking. It may be very inconvenient to persons who are planning peaceful transit routes; it may be vexatious to Mr. BUCHANAN's Government, which desires to maintain the appearance as well as reality of good faith; and it may be scandalous to our own exceedingly moral administration. We must, however, judge it not by English or United States standards. WALKER is only one amongst many leaders, pure adventurers, contending for supremacy. If he had been regarded as entirely alien to the people of Nicaragua, there would be no necessity for external interference: the people themselves would join to kick him out. That they do not do so proves that he has a party. He is to Nicaragua what our WILLIAM I. was to England, only not yet victorious, with the exceedingly untoward circumstance that his England is surrounded by great and powerful states which may put a stop to his romance. Still he is only one amongst a dozen rude knights-errant who are hoping to carve out empire with their swords. He is an Anglo-Saxon; he is a professional man, with education; and it is more than probable that amongst that dozen he is actually the very best. Nay, it is quite possible that if WALKER were established as the Dictator of Nicaragua, he would not only be a more intelligent ruler than FRANCIA, but a better ruler than the region could obtain through domestic production.

SIR JAMES BROOKE AND BORNEO.

SIR JAMES BROOKE is once more in this country. His territory of Sarawak, after the Chinese outbreaks, immediately recovered itself, and is now so perfectly in the hands of its administrators that the Rajah was enabled to leave at a few days' notice. We think that the grandeur of the work thus accomplished in the East by an Englishman is scarcely appreciated in Europe. Holding three distinct populations under his rule, and possessing as an armed force the most miniature battalions possible, Sir JAMES BROOKE may now be said to rule over at least a quarter of a million of souls, for, in addition to the Sarawak provinces, several contiguous river territories acknowledge him as their arbitrator, if not master. At one of these stations a young kinsman of the Rajah acts as his representative, and maintains law and order among a hundred thousand persons; he has a fort, of course, lightly mounted with guns, and could stand a siege from any hostile or rebellious tribe; but such a necessity has not arisen, and the moral influence of two or three Englishmen keeps a large and populous country under control. If we look for the secret of this extraordinary Government, we find, no doubt, that the Rajah is forced to work a machine of policy peculiarly fitted to his situation; that Chinese malcontents are checked by the Dyaks of the interior, who might be let loose upon them, and that the Dyaks themselves, if disposed to relapse into their old practices of marauding and violence, would be at once overpowered by the Malays, who, being intelligent and semi-civilized, acknowledge the blessing of an Englishman's supremacy. That this supremacy is sound, however, and likely to endure, is shown by the remarkable fact that the piratical communities of Serebas and Sakarran—the most formidable in the island—are rapidly yielding to it: Sir JAMES BROOKE, indeed, has conquered the Serebas, and almost conquered the Sakarrans. Thus these tribes—petty maritime Pindarrees and Mahrattas—have been brought to habits of commerce and industry, and to recognise the equal law of Sarawak. We could say nothing which, to those who have followed the history of European transactions in Borneo, could more vividly exemplify the greatness of the undertaking progressing under the influence of the English Rajah.

Besides planting and fostering a new trade on a coast whence trade had been driven by piracy, Sir JAMES BROOKE is creating a considerable market in the interior. It may be anticipated that, when his projects are brought to maturity, a really important outlet for our manufacturing industry may thus be obtained. So far the services rendered by the Rajah to the community at home have been direct. But he has performed others of an indirect and not less important character. He has opposed the extension of the Dutch and Spanish restrictive systems, and has done more to keep the field open for Great Britain than all our remonstrances addressed to the Hague, and all our squabbles over treaties, since the State capitulation of 1815, and the unfortunate surrender of Java. In Borneo itself, and in the Sulu group, he has performed achievements of diplomacy very singular in their simple form, and possibly of great value in their results. We say possibly, since the work must be completed, if at all, by the British Government. Sir JAMES BROOKE's success in these matters has been somewhat undervalued, and the misapprehension may partly be traced to Sir JOHN BOWRING's notice of his mission to Siam. Rajah BROOKE went as Envoy and failed; Sir JOHN BOWRING went as Envoy and succeeded. That point is indisputable. But Sir JAMES went during one reign and Sir JOHN during

another, and the difference was as wide as that between hatred and sympathy, ignorant jealousy and enlightened admiration. The one could not do that which was impossible; the other did that which was not very difficult to do, and did it well.

The question of Sir JAMES BROOKE's status in Borneo is one of immediate and permanent public interest. He is, admittedly, the independent sovereign of a considerable territory, the key to those portions of the vast island unabsorbed by the Dutch. Now, is it desirable to perpetuate this anomaly, or to bring the Rajah and the British Government into closer relations? We believe we are right in saying that the settlement of Labuan is still upon its trial, and that a period has been officially fixed within which its vitality must be made apparent, or the British flag will be hauled down. Such a retreat would be most discouraging, ill-timed, and unfortunate. But the success of Labuan might be placed beyond doubt were complete protection established for trade and commerce in those waters; to this end a Government policy, favourable to Sarawak, is indispensable. Sir JAMES BROOKE may reign over a quarter of a million of happy and flourishing people, but he cannot be expected to mount guard over the whole coast, or to promote the interests of departments by which he is ignored. Large and varied questions connected with our Eastern policy are arising; and while the subject is open there is no reason why we should neglect Borneo, a territory intrinsically of far more importance than Siam or Japan.

CO-OPERATION AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

GREAT credit is due to Mr. HOLMES, of Leeds, for his efforts to popularize the principle of co-operative association. We sincerely hope that the example of Leeds and Rochdale will be followed, ultimately, in every considerable town throughout the kingdom. We will take the Rochdale Pioneers Co-operative Store, and condense the information supplied in the paper read before the British Association for the Promotion of Social Science. It was established in 1844; the funds were raised in pound shares, each member taking five, and paying instalments of not less than threepence a week; deposits were received at five per cent. interest. Now, what has been the result? The society began with twenty-eight members; in 1856 it numbered sixteen hundred; its funds amounted to nearly thirteen thousand pounds sterling; the business transacted during the year was to the extent of sixty-three thousand pounds sterling, and the profits for the same period were three thousand nine hundred and twenty-one pounds, being thirty-five per cent. on the capital, or six per cent. net on the returns. At first, only groceries were sold; butcher's meat, flour, coals, potatoes, clothing, drapery, shoes, clogs, hats, and other commodities and articles of daily use were added. The operations are conducted at a central and four branch stores, employing nine grocery attendants, three butchers, and two drapers, with servers, porters, book-keepers, and managers. In the meat department, four oxen, twelve sheep, one calf, and several pigs are killed weekly. For two per cent. all the working expenses, including rent, wages, and rates are defrayed. Says Mr. HOLMES, "Wages being generally paid at Rochdale on Friday and Saturday evenings, about seven o'clock, it is a perfect wonder to see the numbers of well-dressed working men and their wives walking quietly into the grocers' shops, where, beginning at the left-hand counter in No. 1 department, they are supplied with goods, pay, get their tickets representing the money, and then move on to No. 2, and so on to the eighth or ninth shopman; then into the butcher's shop, the flour, the potato, and the clothing rooms."

The tickets given represent the amount of money expended by each individual; they are collected at stated times, and, after the payment of interest on the society's capital, profits are divided according to transactions. Two and a half per cent. from the net profits is set aside to support a newsroom and library. Monthly meetings take place to discuss

affairs and investigate complaints, 'but they have not had one complaint for the last three months,' stock is taken, and the profits are divided quarterly. The general administration of the society appears to be admirable. There is no display, no waste of stock in dressing windows, no advertizing, no touting for customers; all transactions are for cash, and funds are never wanting. Really, Mr. SCRATCHLEY should organize an association of this kind for some of the London districts, under the auspices of the Friendly Societies Institute.

The success of this experiment is a fact of the highest interest. Co-operation avoids failure, and renders bankruptcy impossible; the persons employed are fairly paid; no funds are invested in plate-glass, lustres, and puffs; litigation is set aside; 'the two societies at Leeds and Rochdale have turned over a million of money, and have not lost ten pounds in bad debts.' At the flour-mill the cost of grinding is reduced 40 per cent., and of retailing 50 per cent.; and the appearance, position, and prospects of the members are most satisfactory.

The working classes generally are ignorant; therefore, they do not co-operate. If they attempt it, they frequently select the wrong paths, and end in failure. But, vigorously and intelligently developed, the principle might entirely change the condition of those classes that live by labour.

CHRISTMAS AT THE WORKHOUSES.

THE social gaieties and substantial honours of Christmas have not been confined to any particular class or rank. The genial current of hilarity, fostered by the unusual beauty and clemency of the weather, has fermented through the lesser as well as the greater arteries of society, and Christmas-day—the day of sacred carols, mysteries, and mumblings—was, in spite of clouds in the East and far-spread poverty at home, converted into a general Festival of Mirth. The heart and the hand of the British nation became enlarged, and the spirit of charity and loving kindness gave a richer varnish to the sheen of the holly and the mistletoe, and a purer glow to the lights that twinkled on the branches of the merry yule-tree.

In our metropolitan unions especially, the festive season was signalized with unusual energy, the charitable public remembering the duties of hospitality, and following out the example of the 'fine old English gentleman,' who, 'though he feasted well the rich, yet ne'er forgot the poor.'

Between thirty and forty thousand persons were regaled in the different workhouses of London, and on the most substantial and cheerful fare. The *carte* for each establishment was to all intents and purposes the same, though occasionally a slight variation might be observed. In the City of London Union, for example, the Christmas feast of the inmates consisted of roast pork or roast beef, with potatoes, one pound of plum-pudding, a pint of porter, half an ounce of tobacco or snuff to each adult. St. Mary's, Paddington, provided the same fare, with the exception of the pork, and the potatoes were 'mashed.' At St. Mary's, Islington, the bill of fare consisted of six ounces of cooked roast beef free from bone, baked potatoes *ad libitum*, one pound of rich boiled plum-pudding, and one pint of THUMAN and HANBURY'S porter, with an additional allowance of tea and sugar. St. Giles's, Camberwell, as at several other Unions, the additions consisted of a bountiful supply of cake to all the inmates, together with oranges, tobacco, snuff, nuts, sweetmeats, and apples. In one instance—St. George's, Hanover-square—we have a gratuity of twopence to each individual. We further read of a series of dissolving views being exhibited in one workhouse, a magic lantern in another, and singing and smoking in the hall, to dispel the gathering gloom of the pauper evening. The inmates of the St. James's Westminster Union were allowed free holiday till the following Monday, and some of them were so far favoured as to obtain permission to visit their friends for periods of from two days to three weeks. In two cases we have been admitted into the mysteries of the kitchen, and had the elements of the glorious pudding statistically placed before our mental vision. The ingredients of this symbolic compound as concocted at St. Marylebone were, we are informed, 300lbs. of flour, 300lbs. of raisins, 240lbs of suet, 85lbs. of sugar, 11lbs. of candied peel, 7lbs. of spice, 1lb. of ground ginger, 8lbs. of salt, 38 eggs, fifty pints of milk, and 50 pints of ale. These seem, indeed, colossal proportions, but are but as the Himalaya to the Leviathan when compared with the more jovial proportions of the St. Pancras plum-pudding. St. Pancras is, in fact, the patriarch

of parishes, being by far the most extensive and populous in the metropolitan district. Hence, with becoming dignity, he set before his festive guests, mixed and kneaded into one sublime and salubrious whole—560lbs. of flour, 496lbs. of fruit, 460lbs. of suet, 168lbs. of sugar, 62 eggs, 144 pints of milk, 10lbs. of spice, 10lbs. of candied peel, and 96 pints of ale, weighing in the aggregate nearly 18 cwt.

Of the proceedings in two—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and St. John, Hampstead—out of the thirty-three metropolitan unions, we have no information, the officials connected with these independent districts having been too imperial to issue a report. We only trust that more attention was shown to the entertainment of the inmates than was manifested to the very proper curiosity of the rate-payers, and that the spirit of hospitality among the guardians was in exact proportion to the incivility with which they treated the public.

METROPOLITAN POOR-RATES.

THE Association for Promoting an Equalization of the Poor-Rate on an Assessment over the Metropolitan Districts is making way; public opinion is rapidly tending in its favour. Several of the new vestries, we believe, are in active co-operation with it, and a good deal of political as well as local influence has been brought into play. Mr. WILLIAM GILBERT, chairman of the association, has been induced to publish a formal summary of the entire question, and to rebut the most plausible of the arguments against a change. Vested interests in one parish, where land and houses have been purchased under a light rate, are opposed to a reform which would deteriorate the property. To this it is answered that when the poor cottagers on the Paddington estate were driven to Notting-hill to make room for magnificent mansions, Paddington did not compensate Kensington for the necessary increase in its rate; the poor of Westminster were ejected into other parishes when Victoria-street was built; out of the poor habitations on the site of Farringdon-street, hundreds of indigent families were thrown into Blackfriars and St. George's, Southwark, 'when the value of property was diminished one-half, and no one dreamed of compensation.' The richer the parish the fewer the poor; the poorer the parish the more numerous the poor; the poor parishes pay heavily, the rich parishes pay lightly. Invert the system and you would have no more than justice; but equalize the rate and the poorer parishes will not complain. Some benefit would accrue to all from the principle of economy introduced by a scheme of general management.

Seven rich City parishes, with an aggregate of rateable property amounting to 159,000*l.* expended for the relief of the poor—5800*l.* in 1838 and 3000*l.* in 1854. It may be guessed what sort of process had been going on; 'improvements' had been driving out the indigent classes. But the poor must be located somewhere. Whither should they drift but into the poor parishes? Accordingly the seven poor parishes had them. Here the aggregate of rateable property was less than 45,000*l.*; the expenditure in 1838 was 4700*l.*; in 1854, 7100*l.* By this it may be perceived, as Mr. GILBERT says, that seven poor parishes, into which the poor had in part been ejected, suffered an increase of poor-rate during the period named of no less than 2730*l.* per annum, although the rateable value of their property was less than one-third of that of the seven richer parishes. As a general rule, in proportion as the wealth of the City has increased, and with it the number of the working classes it has employed, the fewer have been the poor it has been called upon to support.

In the eastern parishes, Mr. GILBERT says, this evil has been carried to an extent at least equal to that which has been reached in the City and West-end. All the improvements that have been made have been urged on, if not entirely caused, by the same horrible wish to thrust the cost of maintaining the pauper upon some other parish; although in most instances, and in the eastern portion of the metropolis especially, this has not been done until the pressure of pauperism has become altogether insupportable. Let us adduce, as an example in support of this statement, Commercial-street, a thoroughfare formed for the ostensible object of facilitating the traffic from the Eastern Counties Railway to the London Docks. Any one acquainted with the locality can answer to what extent such a communication was necessary. We have often passed through it, and we unhesitatingly state that there appears to be no street in

London in which a smaller amount of traffic exists. Of this we are sure—that the whole space was formerly covered with dwellings for the poor; that at present they are destroyed, and that no others have been built in their stead, although no less than 4500 individuals were ejected in its formation. Good houses cannot be built there, for the heavy poor-rate has decreased the value of such property to an extent that would cause the speculation to be a failure; while to build houses for the poor would be to increase the poor-rate, already too burdensome. Perhaps no parish in the metropolis is better adapted to show the effect of improvements than Whitechapel. Since the year 1821, there have been destroyed in that district, for the formation of the Blackwall Railway, 167 houses; for Commercial-street, 570; for the formation of St. Katharine's Docks, 1033; in all, 1770; while scarcely 360 have been rebuilt. Although the number ejected by these alterations was not less than 14,000, the increase of population in the union; from 1821 to 1851, was not less than 10,659 souls. And this evil is apparently on the increase; 450 houses have lately been destroyed in Shadwell, and, for the recent enlargement of the London Docks, 3500 people have been ejected, who naturally strive to keep as close as possible to the scene of their daily occupation: while a new street is in progress of formation by the Metropolitan Board, from Commercial-street to Red Lion-street, Whitechapel, that will eject many hundreds more.

This statement is Mr. GILBERT'S. We enter upon the subject thus generally, but with an intention to resume it, and lay the entire argument before our readers.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in London, which in the previous week were 1234, declined in the week that ended last Saturday to 1013. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1227. But, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average, with a view to comparison, must be raised proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1350. Hence it appears the public health was so far improved that the deaths were less by about 300 than the number which the average rate of mortality at the close of the year would have produced.—Last week, the births of 769 boys and 730 girls, in all 1499 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1410.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

REDUCTION OF THE SHIP LETTER RATE OF POSTAGE.—The Post Office has issued the following notification:—"On the 1st of January next, and thenceforward, the British rate of postage upon letters despatched from any port of the United Kingdom by a private ship, whether steamer or sailing vessel, will be reduced to 6d. the half-ounce, in all cases where it now exceeds that sum. The charge upon letters above half an ounce in weight will increase according to the scale for charging inland letters. Letters conveyed by private ship from this country to France or Belgium will continue liable to a combined British and foreign rate of 4d. the half-ounce; and letters conveyed by private ship to Holland, Hamburg, or Bremen, will still be charged with a combined British and foreign rate of 8d. the half-ounce, as heretofore."

PRESENT OF GOBELINS TAPESTRY.—Prince Napoleon has transmitted to the Committee of Council on Education a very interesting specimen of Gobelins tapestry, the subject being 'Arria presenting the dagger to her husband Pætus, after having stabbed herself.' This piece of work was commenced under Louis XVI., was completed during the period of the Republic, and received its border in the early days of the first Empire. It was given on his marriage, in 1807, to Jerome, king of Westphalia, by the Emperor, his brother. Prince Jerome has just given it to his son Prince Napoleon, in order that it might be presented to the Museum of Art at South Kensington, as some proof of the interest which they both took in that establishment. Viewed for its money worth, this specimen must have been valued at above 2000*l.*; but, looking to the curious facts of its history, it is of far higher value as an evidence of the friendly relations which have sprung up between the two countries, not merely in politics, but in the promotion of the arts.

PRESENT FROM THE FRENCH EMPEROR.—Louis Napoleon has sent a sum, amounting to about a hundred pounds English, to Jacob Harbour, the labouring man who, in assisting a gunner to fire a salute at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club-house, when the Emperor and Empress were departing from Osborne on the 10th of last August, had his right arm dreadfully shattered.

CHURCH-RATE CONTENT AT GREENWICH.—A church rate of a penny in the pound has been affirmed at Greenwich by 921 against 388. The opponents of the measure deny the validity of the rate, notwithstanding the majority thus obtained, in consequence of the rev. chairman (the vicar) having refused to put a motion for the adjournment of the vestry for six weeks for the estimates to be amended.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

LORD MACAULAY has now replied to Mr. HEPPORTH DIXON on the subject of WILLIAM PENN and the Pardon-brokerage at Taunton. An elaborate note to the second volume of the new edition of his History of England sets forth the argument. Only two points are relied upon to confirm 'the Quaker's' conviction:—that the names of PENN and other persons were spelt differently at different times, and that the GEORGE PENNE in question was not a man with whom a Secretary of State would have corresponded. Now, a pardon was negotiated at Taunton by 'Mr. PENNE'; a vague letter from SUNDERLAND is the evidence; there was at Taunton a Mr. PENNE; he was a notorious pardon-broker; his transactions of this kind remain upon record. Is it necessary, then, to surmise—for it is only surmise—that WILLIAM PENN, the Quaker, conducted the bargain? The testimony is all on one side; there is scarcely a possibility in favour of Lord MACAULAY's hypothesis. But is it likely, Lord MACAULAY asks, that a Secretary of State would correspond with such an individual as GEORGE PENNE? What answer will satisfy the noble historian? Secretaries of State *did* correspond with him; he was thought of such importance, that one of his letters, printed in Mr. DIXON'S 'Life,' was entered among the minutes of the Privy Council. If SUNDERLAND would not write to him, SUNDERLAND'S superiors wrote. Lord MACAULAY'S suggestion, therefore, has no force whatever. We are sorry to find that he will not be set right, and refuses to modify an inaccurate passage in a history of which the nation, as well as himself, is proud. The point has been proved against him to demonstration, and it would have done him no discredit to recast a paragraph for the sake of historical honesty.

The new volume of *Cambridge Essays*, published a few days since, will probably be less generally popular than either of its predecessors, the papers being fewer, and, as a natural result, longer than in the previous volumes. The Essays show no falling off, however, in real value and permanent interest, each being a substantial contribution towards the elucidation of the subject discussed. If they prove less attractive than the former Essays of the same series, it will not be from any want of interest in the subjects chosen, but simply from the solidity of the treatment. Most of the questions discussed are of immediate and practical interest, such as 'Agriculture in Britain at the present Day,' 'Telegraphic Communication with India,' and 'Questions Raised by the Mutiny.' This is a noteworthy feature of the volume, as showing how thoroughly the Cambridge men keep abreast of the foremost topics of the time. Another marked feature of the volume is the absence of that purely insular point of view which is too common with English essayists. More than one of the writers in the present volume institute a lengthy comparison between our own state and that of our neighbours across the Channel, evidently the result not only of familiar knowledge, but also of personal interest in the actual social and political condition of the French people. The first and most elaborate essay in the volume, on 'The Characteristics of English Criminal Law,' by Mr. FITZJAMES STEPHEN, illustrates this. After giving a lucid outline of a most perplexed and intricate subject—the composition, principles, and working of our criminal law—he institutes towards the close of his essay a comparison between the statistics of criminal justice lately published in England and France. The result of this comparison is, that the punishment for criminal offences is neither so uniform nor so severe in our own country as in France. The following extract closes the contrast:—

The English system, however, involves one great disadvantage. There is no uniform standard of punishment, and thus the penalties of crimes differ according to the private judgments of all the judges and all the chairmen of quarter sessions, and so many circumstances weigh with them that the differences are at times almost incredible. I have heard two different boys sentenced for almost identically the same offence (stealing from the person), to six months' hard labour, and to six years' penal servitude. I have also heard a woman sentenced to fourteen years' transportation, and a man to four months' imprisonment, for passing forged notes—on the same circuit, but by different judges. A late judge of great eminence adopted a theory, not long before his death, that punishment for first offences ought to be severe. His brother judge did not share it, and the consequence was, that at half the towns on the Midland Circuit, imprisonments ran from eight to eighteen months, whilst at the others they were more often four, six, or eight. It may not be very easy to say whether a servant who drinks his master's wine should go to prison for four months or for eight, but it is rather odd that the question should turn upon his being tried at Nottingham or Derby.

It may be interesting to notice, in conclusion, the comparative frequency of some of the graver crimes in the two countries. There were, in France, 107 persons accused of political crimes. In England, there were none. In France, there were 111 persons tried for *meurtre* (which would include many of the worst cases of manslaughter), 249 for assassination, 18 for parricide, 200 for infanticide, and 46 (of whom 21 were women) for poisoning. These numbers include attempts. In all, 614 persons were accused of wilfully destroying, or attempting to destroy, life. Besides these, 90 persons were charged with one form of what we most confusedly call manslaughter—viz., causing death unintentionally by blows or wounds; and 326 were tried for causing death by negligence. The negligence in 81 cases consisted of furious driving. In England, 57 persons were accused of murder, 39 of attempts to murder. Only 11 were capitally convicted on the first charge, and 10 on the second; and 264 persons were tried for manslaughter. In crimes of violence not attended with fatal consequences, the proportions are very different. In France, there were 132 cases of wounding, which disabled the wounded person for twenty days or more; in England, there were 299 cases of shooting, stabbing, and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. In France, there were 778 cases of rape and assault with

intent; in England, 234. In France, the persons so assaulted were, in no less than 594 cases, under fifteen years of age. In France, there were 86 trials for procuring abortion; in England, only 5. On the other hand, there were but 8 cases of bigamy in France, against 86 in England. The cases of perjury, and subornation of perjury, were 144 in each country. These last results may probably be attributed, to a great extent, to the foolish lenity shown to these crimes in England. Four years' penal servitude is the greatest punishment which can be awarded to an offence which may be made the instrument of the most atrocious murder, or to one which, though often venial, occasionally combines the grossest cruelty with the most disgraceful treachery, and has been fairly described as a rape by fraud.

The third article of the volume, on 'Telegraphic Communication with India,' written in full knowledge of the subject, discusses the rival lines of telegraph proposed, and decides in favour of the Red Sea project. But the most generally readable and attractive article is the fourth, on 'Porson,' by Mr. H. R. Luard. It abounds with pleasant gossip, illustrating the character and career of that great but neglected scholar, and is, in fact, the best biographical sketch of him yet published.

THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE AND ART.

The Beautiful in Nature, Art, and Life. By A. J. Symington. 2 vols.

Longman and Co.

In these volumes, there is more evidence of industry than of original thought. The author is a student, who reads for his ideas, and he has produced a discursive criticism, not a little independent in tone, yet rarely presenting any fruition of intellectual inquiry beyond that which is to be found in the works of previous writers. A set of synoptical outlines enclose a light commentary, and Mr. Symington's task is concluded. If we search the book for a new elucidation of the principle of beauty, in art, nature, or life, we are disappointed; strictly, it is not a philosophical treatise, but a series of impressions taken from a large variety of originals, wrought together with taste and ingenuity, and laid open as a view of that which is, or has been, estimated beautiful by artists and nations at different periods of history. Thus, Mr. Symington has aimed at an educational purpose, and certainly we would gladly see his volumes in the hands of the younger freemasons of this department of philosophy, since it may aid in guarding against the evils of a too transcendental and metaphysical rendering of natural, though not exactly demonstrable, laws. Perhaps that which stands in place of a theory is so stretched by the writer that the tissue parts, and exposes at times the bones of a very crude and common doctrine, as when Mr. Symington, after tracing the beautiful through philosophy, nature, and art, applies his standard to human life, and satisfies himself that he has carried the scholar round a circle; but this, which might have been fatal to him had he come forward as a creative thinker, is not the worst objection to his method, as something between that of a commentator and that of an encyclopedist. He thinks it necessary to classify and characterize enough names to fill a biographical dictionary, and so yielding is his judgment to the temptations of his generosity, that not content with having sounded a flourish over every maker of verses known to the narrowest fame, he assures us that a certain poet and composer, in his literary and musical confidence, would assuredly find a willing audience among the admirers of Wordsworth and Beethoven, if only he were to publish his works. Either this is mere personal flattery, or it is addressed to the public, and in the latter case Mr. Symington has mistaken his vocation. The world will not believe in unpublished parallels of the works of Wordsworth and Beethoven on the faith of a writer whose literary partialities are so numerous as to be thoroughly impartial, not to say indiscriminate. A rigid investigation of the science of aesthetics might have reduced the number of laudatory epithets flowing through these two volumes. But Mr. Symington has written that which, appreciated in a proper light, is indeed very readable. In the first place, his subject is attractive, and he treats it with attractive ease. All the world worships beauty, as he says, and all poets dedicate to it their hymns. Therefore speculative minds are eager to discover the source of the delight that lives for centuries, and was the fascination of the world ere creative art or poetry were known. Mr. Symington does not tell us what beauty is, or help us to understand it, but he catalogues the theories of ancient and modern times, and constructs a kaleidoscope of fanciful opinions. The eye is the true artist, and no one has yet explained why the eye is gratified more by one form than by another. Winkelman's definition is a mere figure of speech, and therefore vague; Schiller's is a didacticism; Kant's is a maxim; Schelling's is the vapoury expression of a theory; Lord Bacon's pleases but does not satisfy; Addison's is a suggestion; Gerard's a fragment; Jeffrey denies innate beauty altogether, and Burke, when he tries to define it, tempts us to throw down the treatise on the Sublime and Beautiful, one of the most popular and the least valuable of his writings. *Il pin seff uno*, which satisfied Coleridge, is a definition that needs to be defined, and has never been yet. Any object, some have said, appears beautiful when an intense light is cast upon it; but the real purpose of a dissertation on beauty is to fix it as a principle in art, and to discover how this principle may be made to fructify. We all know, and even savages by their silent gazings confess, that nature is beautiful, that pink sunset clouds, pine-trees flaming in the light, flowers, stars, rainbows, orchards in blossom, lakes half hid in shadow and half glancing in the sun, and jewels, have their separate and wonderful beauties, but, if the love of beauty be Taste, can it be converted into a philosophy and become the domain of the highest minds? If so, how? When Mr. Symington writes of the beautiful in nature, he quotes freely and choicely, and inlays his pages with exquisite fragments, but though all this gold and jewellery is in the crucible, the sun-drop does not fall out; the alchemist has suggested nothing.

The treatise on artistic beauty is more promising at its commencement, but we soon discover that Mr. Symington writes in fetters. So far as he goes he is an intelligent guide, but his special dogma being that the pariet of Grecian art ceased in one sense before the Venus of Praxiteles was chiselled, we recognize, at once, a critic with an absorbing prejudice. The

sculpture which gave a soul to the objects of sense, and a body to the abstractions of mind, was surely not completed when artists dared to work perfection instead of fragments, and appeal to natural instead of conventional purity. Moreover, Mr. Symington is rash in his assertions, as when he speaks of the unbearable glare of new white-cut marble, and assumes the truth of the hypothesis that all the works of Grecian sculpture and architecture were more or less coloured. We had thought this controversy to have ended in a compromise. An analysis of ancient literature will prove distinctly to any one interested in the subject that not only were many of the monuments and statues left white, but were admired especially on account of their similitude to snow. If authorities are to be quoted, criticism should find its way to one book as well as to another. We think Mr. Symington has busied himself too much with his compilations among the moderns to do more than judge hastily of the antique. Apparently, too, he is unconscious that his work falls short of being an analysis of the laws of beauty, which it is not in any respect. That the analogies and sympathies of Art are discussed, that its classifications and capabilities are pointed out, that the artist is admonished, and that the idea of mathematical ratios in connexion with Grecian and Gothic architecture is developed, may be admitted in favour of the work, under its educational aspect; but that the principle of beauty in philosophy has been reduced to a metaphysical precipitate is perhaps what not even the author himself believes. Of sculpture we think his theory totally inadequate; in poetry he seems to have a generous catholic taste; in painting his eulogies wander far and near, and are at times characteristically exaggerated; in music he finds the spirit of all art and beauty. Into his essay on the beautiful in life we have not ventured far: it combines mysticism with exuberance.

A MONTH IN THE FORESTS OF FRANCE.

A Month in the Forests of France. By the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley.

Longman and Co.

SINCE the well-remembered Colonel Thornton, of Thornville Royal, about half a century ago, published one, if not two, large quarto volumes containing his hunting reminiscences of France, no similar contribution to our literature has occurred until the appearance of the present modest work. But Thornton was a sportsman merely, his intellectual endowments being not of a very high grade, and we look in vain for that enthusiastic examination of 'Great Nature's Book of Mystery,' which forms a leading attraction in the present work. Mr. Berkeley observes in his preface that his aim has been to render the narrative of this month's sojourn in an ancient French chateau, the welcome he enjoyed, how he was feasted beneath the green-wood tree, with his adventures among the wild-boar, the roebuck, and the wolf—amusing not merely to sportsmen but worthy of being placed even upon the table of a lady's boudoir. We think he has succeeded. Equally observant with the amiable historian of Selbourne, like him a lover of the free denizens of the woods, he possesses that more enlarged experience and wider range of observation which a constant devotion to the mysteries of woodcraft must necessarily confer.

The kennel at Beacon Lodge numbers among its tenants a noble blood-hound named Druid. The extraordinary size, strength, and sagacity of this dog have by his master been frequently described in many interesting papers published in the columns of a contemporary. Indeed, this splendid specimen of a generous race literally enjoys a European celebrity with sportsmen. His performances in pulling down the deer unassisted, which had been ordered to be destroyed throughout the Royal New Forest, reached the ears of the Vicomte d'Anchald, of Château Sauvage, two hundred miles south of Paris. Being of congenial sylvan tastes, and moreover *Louvetier*, or lieutenant of the wolf-hounds, in his department, he came over expressly to see the English chase, and, it is scarcely necessary to add, received all the warm-hearted hospitality in which an English country mansion, especially when tenanted by a sportsman, is rarely deficient.

He came to me at Beacon Lodge; was out with Druid when he hunted down his deer; rode well, and only missed giving to the doe the *coup de grâce* by not knowing the locality as well as I did. He joined me in my sea fishings and shared in all that the season afforded, bought some of my bloodhounds, accepted others that I was too happy to place at his disposal, and bought several couples of fox-hounds from the best English kennels. His object accomplished—that of seeing Druid hunt down his deer, and taking my advice as to forming a contemplated pack of hounds—he repaired to France with a pledge from me that I would return the visit and fraternize with him.

Accordingly in September, 1856, our author, accompanied by a portion of his kennel, amongst which were several of Druid's descendants, embarked at Southampton in happy mood, full of excitement at the prospect of the novel kind of chase which awaited him in the great primeval forests of France. On board the packet, he gets acquainted with an odd fish—an American merchant skipper—who, though professing to be a 'slavery-hating abolitionist,' exhibits some extraordinary vagaries totally at variance with his liberal professions:—

On the deck stood my friend, the Captain, drawn up to his full height, and sternly intent upon the form of some receding passenger then perambulating 'forward.'

"Hallo, Captain!" I exclaimed, "what's up and in the wind now? You don't look pleased."

"Pleased!" he sternly replied; "and how should I be? look what's coming now!"

An intelligent-looking coloured gentleman, well dressed, was advancing aft the funnel:—"Oh! I see. What harm is he doing?"

"Harm! why just look at him? There he goes, walking in front of those ladies that are seated! There's impudence in him! Why I wouldn't do so! What business has he afoot the funnel? I wonder some one don't drop into him?"

"Well, now, Captain," I said, "if you go down to breakfast, and he comes too, what will you do? You can't drop into him; so what course would you take?"

"Take!" he cried, "why, if I was half famished, I'd quit the table as long as he was there, that I would."

Our Englishman, however, in whose veins circulates the blood of the old Danish sea kings, as is inscribed on the tomb of one of the Fitzhardinges of Berkeley, buried in Bristol Cathedral six hundred years ago, had none of the prejudices of this underbred Yankee. He liked the appearance of the stranger, 'a veritable black from head to foot,' ascertained who he

was, and in the spirit of a Christian gentleman at once made his acquaintance:—

I showed him my bloodhound; and talking a great deal to him, found that he was perfect in the English language, understood French, and was altogether a gentleman of very considerable information.

Travelling by railway, he at length reaches the Guéfin station, and there a friendly hand presses his shoulder, and M. d'Anchald welcomes him to France. The morning which succeeded Mr. Berkeley's arrival at Château Sauvage was exactly the one a sportsman delights to revel in:—

With a swing I leaped from my bed, and entering the recess of the window caused by the thickness of the walls, I threw the casement open. Beneath my window was a terrace, whence arose the aroma of mignonette and other flowers, while below its wall were splendid meadows as green and rich as those beneath the battlements of Berkeley Castle, filled with white cattle. Beyond the meadows the undulating ground rose in some arable land, abutting the edge of the luxuriant wild or copse-wood forest. Oh! what a balmy, elastic, invigorating air; how soft the sky, how green the fields and woods! I looked on them all with heart-felt veneration, and wished for eyes that were far away, and thought of hours that I had shared with them in beautiful prospects something like the one now before me. That did not enervate the sportsman's arm nor render me less anxious to bring a boar to bay.

The French Vicomte's ideas of utilitarian agriculture are worthy of our illustrious compatriot Mr. Mechi, of Tiptree and draining celebrity:—

The meadows I gazed on in olden times had been an immense lake. "Oh! why," I once exclaimed to my friend, "did you not keep it for the sake of the wild swans and all the varieties of fowl and fish upon and within it?" "The bullocks are better," was his reply; "a bullock to an acre is better than the ducks." And, in one sense of the word, I could offer no contradiction.

After breakfast the author repairs to his host's kennel. The healthy and efficient condition in which hounds should be maintained is, of course, a capital point of observance with all sportsmen, and with none more decidedly than one who is recognized as the 'premier chasseur' of Britain. The reader may therefore easily picture the regret and dismay excited by the melancholy picture which presented itself to his view:—

I beheld about seventeen couple of hounds in every possible and impossible stage of disease and incapability, and not above two or three among them that even looked fit to follow an animal of chase. There tottered Saxon—the great able young blood-hound, in the prime of life, that, single-handed, had often hunted down, in runs of from two to four hours' duration, the wild New Forest deer, and which I had sold to M. d'Anchald in the previous spring—scarce able to sustain himself, nor possessed of energy enough to know me; as thin as a whipping post, as hollow in his coat as a 'French hen,' and nearly blind from the yellow matter accumulated in the corners of his eyes.

"What on earth is the matter with Saxon?" I exclaimed. "Nothing." "Nothing! why he is dying, as are three parts of the hounds. All are skeletons save one or two, which are as fat as pigs; all are more or less eaten up with mange, and even the best-looking are in no condition: what makes the most of them so thin?" "I don't know; they eat what they like." "What makes that one so fat?" "I don't know, he has the same chance as the others." "How do you feed them?" "We let them in all together." "Ventre saint-gris! what do you give them to eat?" "Barley bread soaked in hot water." "No flesh?" "Oh yea, sometimes." "Well, the hounds are dying; how do you account for it?" "We took them out the other day to an attack of some wolves, and after that they all lay down, and have looked bad ever since."

Dear brother sportsman, will you believe it? these poor hounds had lain cooped up in their kennel from March till the end of August, and then, without any previous exercise or trot on the roads, or rule as to the quantity of fat they carried, and not having had any meat, they were taken out into the severest and best scented woods imaginable to hunt cub wolves, in a climate warmer than that of England, on a very hot day. Well might they tire and lie down. I wonder they did not all fall off in fits, die at once, or go mad.

Accompanied by 'the roguish cripples,' as he afterwards, and with reason, ludicrously nicknames the babbling French pack, they went to hunt the wolf, enlivened by an absurd and noisy fanfarrade of winding horns. A couple or two of staunch English fox-hounds, perhaps of the 'famous old Berkeley breed,' go with them, and, as might be anticipated, do more than their fair share of the work:—

There was a very remarkable sullen bay proceeding from a single hound, a long way off. I had taken up a position against a tree, listening to that bay again, when down the path, right for my legs, came a splendid cub-dog wolf, quite beaten, and by his side, and touching him, a powerful French hound, able to go twice as fast as the wolf, but not daring to stop him—the wolf going with his head very low, his hind quarters very high, his brush between his legs, and every bristle on his back set up the wrong way; his tongue out, and his eyes flashing fire, while from his capacious jaws he emitted the fathers and mothers of all the snarls I had ever heard, by way of telling the hound to keep his jaws off. The hound kept growling, sometimes behind him, nudging his hind quarters with his chin; at other times alongside, licking his lips and pushing his nose against the top of the wolf's neck, just as you see a dog do when he meditates pitching into another; all this done in a long heavy gallop, and beautifully illustrating my expressed opinion, that the reason hounds in France cannot catch a wolf is, that they do not come up with him in force sufficient to roll him over. On they came, until within two yards of my boots, when I suddenly raised one leg in the wolf's face, which made him dash on one side clear of the hound, and I at once fired. The green cartridge never exploded, but like a ball it just went over his shoulder and missed him. He then crossed the ride behind me, going away a slant; and on the first opportunity afforded by the trees I rolled him over.

The chase of the wild boar, which may be enjoyed in its highest perfection in the French forests, is attended with much more serious peril to both hounds and huntsmen than that of the wolf:—

I was flying the shortest way to another bend of the wood, when I saw under a hedge, motionless and dyed with blood, poor Barricade, one of our best fox-hounds, ripped open, the blood in a jet as thick as the little finger still pouring out from behind her ear. I never saw so miserable an object—her beautiful face so different in expression to what it was when I cheered her in the run; unable to walk, she seemed to stand up transfixed with pain; so, fearing that more mischief might be going on while I was away, I cried to a peasant who was standing close by, "Le pauvre, pauvre chien, a vous!" pointing to her at the same time with a look of pity; and again I plunged into the woods.

The death of *un vieux solitaire*:—

The boar had received eight balls before he died—topping the fence of the wood like a greyhound with seven balls in him, and falling at last by a ball fired by Maurice as he jumped the fence, which struck him behind, and raked quite up into the vital parts. A more splendid creature I never saw. From his small and, for a boar, beautifully-

shaped head to his tail he was straight as a line, small, close, set-back ears, enormous shoulders, loins, and hams, and short legs, with a body well let down and low. As a prize boar, in shape and make, he might have been shown anywhere. He looked, from the length of his coat, and his stiff bristles, quite as large as a good-sized bear, with white tusks of the most formidable dimensions—weight above 350lbs. "And now," said I, "for poor Barricade." We went under my direction to search for her, when she was met, walking slowly and in a fainting condition, and brought to the little village. As to the *vieux sanglier*, he was soon slung on a pole, and borne by the blouses to the inn, the horns playing all the way the 'Death of the Wild Boar.'

Space will not permit us to do more than merely allude to Mr. Berkeley's sound and sportsmanlike views on otter hunting. Beyond all question, the only useful dog for this summer branch of the chase is the breed he prefers—to the exclusion of that noisy, false, babbling species known as the large, rough northern otter dog. The large sums of money frequently paid for such had far better been retained in the owner's pocket.

BOOKS ON INDIA.

The Sepoy Revolt: its Causes and its Consequences. By Henry Meade. (Murray.)—From the ten years' local experience of Mr. Meade something better might have been anticipated than four hundred pages of invective. This work contains little that is not vitiated by the violent antipathies of the writer, who seems to have imposed upon himself the task of dragging the East India Company to execution. It is much to be doubted whether so laborious a philippic will have much effect on public opinion at home. A few lines in the preface will prepare every reader for a book of execrations, pitched in *altissimo*. Torture and lawlessness, and the perpetual suffering of millions, have become so familiar to him, says Mr. Meade, autobiographically, that he is conscious of not feeling as he ought to feel when wrong is done to individuals and nations. Perhaps some of this involuntary injustice has been bestowed upon England herself, and her representatives in the East. Mr. Meade, professing to write of the Sepoy rebellion, traverses a very wide field, and continually breaks off into not uninteresting digressions, but a bias is everywhere apparent. "We have no heart to chronicle the massacre of Jhansi," he says, and it may be allowed that those horrid incidents should not be unnecessarily described. But when Mr. Meade comes to treat of Travancore tortures, inflicted upon the natives, he has heart enough for long and dismal expatiation, upon racking, squeezing fingers, whipping women with stinging-nettles, tying them together by their hair, hanging men by their hands, lighting fires under them, and other variations of atrocity. Mr. Meade is invariably one-sided and acrimonious, but why did he dilate so leisurely upon this subject if he dared not trust himself to speak of cruelties inflicted upon English men and women in Central India and elsewhere? He calls the revolted Sepoy a leopard trained by us to hunt down the people of India, which at length has sprung upon ourselves; and this taint of rhetorical exaggeration pervades the whole book from beginning to end. However, had Mr. Meade been capable of discrimination, he might have been a competent witness: he has seen much of India, and devoted some study to its wants, resources, and institutions, and he occasionally produces telling explanations of events associated with the mutiny. His picture of the mock state kept by the old King of Delhi is effective, and partly illustrates the absurdity of the royal pension system as hitherto maintained. The king, or Padishah, never forgave the English after a governor-general had insisted upon having a chair in his presence; all letters addressed to him were styled petitions; and he supported twelve thousand men, women, and children within his enormous palace in a life of the grossest sensuality. Indian lutes and love-songs amused the ladies of the colossal harem; and in that school of licence and brutality the young princes of the fallen dynasty were educated to 'do what they liked' to the young English girls and children handed over to them, as prizes of war, by the aged monarch, who to this day has a guard of honour in attendance upon him at Delhi.

British Rule in India. An Historical Sketch. By Harriet Martineau. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—We have not met with a more succinct and comprehensive volume on British India than this, by Miss Martineau. It is a narrative, spreading from time to time into pictures. From a general sketch of the country and its early annals, Miss Martineau passes to the early enterprises of traders, the establishment of factories, the appearance of European military power in the East, the germination of a policy and a power, and the consolidated erection of British rule. Hence the story is one of rapid developments—the double government, the revenue and subsidiary systems, the great imperial wars, the successive conquests of large territories, and grand improvements in the social and physical condition of the native races under Christian control. Some of our late wars are pointed to as the foundations and bulwarks of an external Indian policy, and the book is brought to an end with a broad and vivid sketch of modern Indian life and manners among the Hindoos and Mohammedans, and the foreigners located on their soil.

A Popular Account of the Thugs and Dacoits, the Hereditary Garotters and Gang-Robbers of India. By James Hutton. (Allen and Co.)—Here is a compact and in every way admirable account of the garotters and gang-robbers of India. Mr. Hutton is perfectly master of his subject, and consequently treats it with lightness and ease, following up his explanatory chapters with a profusion of anecdotes. Thuggee and Dacoitee, now abolished, after extraordinary efforts, by the British Government, were among the greatest curses of India; but they were at the same time, and are, historical institutions very remarkable, and worthy of study. Certainly Mr. Hutton's volume contains the only record of their origin, achievements, and extinction which is at all complete, or likely to be popular.

Opinions on the Indian Army. By Colonel John Studholme Hodgson. (Allen and Co.)—These 'Opinions' deserve the attention of military and political readers. Colonel Hodgson, of the Bengal army, and Brigadier late Commanding the Punjab Irregular Force, is no inconsiderable authority on Indian army questions. That he has formed an acute judgment on various points of the highest interest is shown by the fact that many of his views, originally published at Meerut seven years ago, have since been literally justified by events which in some degree he may be said to have predicted.

We commend the studies of this distinguished soldier to the notice of those who care for more than superficial information on Indian military matters.

The Indian Mutiny. A Narrative. By a former Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*. (Routledge and Co.)—This volume, though a cheap and popular compilation, has evidently been put together by a writer whose judgment and knowledge may be depended upon.

THE BLUE MOSELLE.

The Life of the Moselle, from its Source in the Vosges Mountains to its Junction with the Rhine at Coblenz. By Octavius Rooke. Illustrated with Seventy Engravings.

THE author complains of the neglect that leaves the Moselle to glide with scarcely a tourist admiring its beauty. He loves the graceful river, and the people of the valley will be grateful to him for publishing this beautiful volume. Readers of it will yearn to be where Ausonius was inspired by the subject of one of his noblest poems. All the country, from the spot where the Moselle trickles out of the earth amid moss and stones, to the stately heights of Ehrenbreitstein, is rich in the varieties of landscape, yet summer travellers rarely explore the upper valley. The quiet wanderer in search of emotions and impressions gains a thousand that are new by the way, and with Mr. Rooke's dainty itinerary in hand, may listen to many a legend of crime, passion, and mystery. The stream itself is a tradition, for it claims as ancestor a certain ethereal maiden, who undertook a pilgrimage from the Vosges hills to the Rhine, and married that ancient river. Upon the banks, as they slope down into Germany, stand ruins and memorials haunted by tales told of the past; at Remiremont, children still hear of Charlemagne, Queen Waldrada, the Huns, and those free-hearted ladies of the mountain convent whom Pope Eugenius reproached for the scandal of their lives; at Epinal also survives a romance of bad manners, and at Toul pastoral poetry revels on the yellow slopes on both sides of the river. From that point the Fair Girl dances on brightly, indifferent to the shadowy histories of Theolinda and Aleidor, the knight who died fighting against the Vandals, and his bride who, with roses in her hair, charged the enemy, and afterwards receiving a title of chivalry from Pharamond, is supposed to have bequeathed to Joan of Arc a suggestion of heroism. The glancing river passes Metz and the graves of the Cordelier conspirators, and shooting by Sierck, leaves the French and enters the Prussian territory, where, known as the Mosel, it glimmers among lowlands and highlands singularly rich in their growth of wild flowers. According to the fanciful working out of the legend, the Moselle at Treves passes out of girlhood to become a woman of more ripe and abundant beauty. Wine and corn enrich the valley, and all the ruins are peopled with ghostly legends. Below Treves is the district generally visited by such tourists as come to look upon the loveliness of the Moselle, which is here at the present time much what the Rhine was half a century ago. No great roads line the banks, cutting off the quaint houses of the old towns and villages from the river-side; every object on land and water is picturesque—cottages, costumes, boats, cargoes, orchards, and vineyards—and Mr. Rooke's pencil has transferred many charming fragments of scenery and characteristic groups to the pages of his most agreeable volume. The Moselle vintage is of the old-fashioned type, the wine being generally pressed out by 'the white feet of laughing girls,' the clusters having been cut from the tree and placed in baskets on the harvesters' backs. Wherever a shelf of rock is accessible the vine flourishes;—within the walls of mouldering castles, on the crags and precipices, and along the cleared lands bordering the forests.

The writer of this elegant volume gossips cheerfully and instructively all the way to Ehrenbreitstein, and his seventy original sketches, admirably engraved by Mr. T. Bolton, with borders and floral ornaments from the cunning hand of Noel Humphreys, appropriately illustrate one of the most graceful gift-books of the season. We should add, that the type and paper are excellent.

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

FIRST, to all yet undecided on the subject of a New Year's or Twelfth Day Gift, let us introduce *Comus: a Mask*, by John Milton, as published by Mr. Routledge, with thirty illustrations by Pickersgill, Birket Foster, Harrison Weir, &c., engraved by the Brothers Dalziel. It is a dainty little volume, with rich brown binding, bordered and stamped with gold,—a jewelled version of an English classic which is a jewel in itself. To those whose sympathies are lyrical, Messrs. Low offer the *Pastoral Poems of Wordsworth*, profusely and tastefully illustrated. This also is a delicate little volume, draped in blue, with golden emblazonry. It forms a very fitting gift for the young. To the still younger we recommend *Fairy Fables*, by Cuthbert Bede, B.A., with illustrations by Alfred Crowquill, presented to us by Mr. Bentley, in a suit of gilded green,—a pretty volume, full of short, fresh, and fascinating tales for the parlour and nursery fireside. Mr. Bentley, moreover, issues another kill-time for Twelfth Night, and indeed any other night of gaiety, rejuvenescent to the elder generation,—*Fairy Tale Charades, for Acting*, by M. G. Aveline. Great dramatic doings may be carried on in drawing-rooms with the help of these simple and ingenious versions. To folks of darker imaginations, Mr. Hain Friswell addresses *Ghost Stories and Phantom Fancies*, published by Mr. Bentley. Mr. Friswell is not happy in his efforts at humour, and is somewhat wearisome in his preface and interludes, but the ghost stories themselves are cleverly and amusingly told.

A special book of the season is Mr. Charles H. Bennett's *Fables of Esop and Others Translated into Human Nature*, published by Mr. Kent. It is a thin quarto volume of woodcuts, representing versions of popular fables, in which the creatures are human in all but their heads, which, like those of the revellers in *Comus*, are the heads of lions, asses, wolves, foxes, swine, vultures, and oxen. This idea is very felicitously worked out by the artist, whose 'Shadows,' noticed in these columns last year, brought him conspicuously before the public eye. The trial of a man for ill-treating a horse is the frontispiece, bringing into view the sharks, apes, elephants, daws, and rats who wear the costume and strut on the legs of humanity. The footpad

wolf, the military ass in a lion's skin, the ape-like widow who befools her children, the fortune-hunting fox, the blinking mole who affects to be a critic of art, the cat-paw Oliver Twist, the confidential cur in the City who pilfers from his master, the puppy menial, the starving mechanic ox repulsed by the liveried dog in the manger, the tortoise capitalist who beats the volatile hare-like dreamer, and the wolf burglar who cheats the crane attorney, are admirably 'translated.' We like Mr. Bennett's humour, although we would hint to him to widen his field, and not take too many crops from one piece of ground.

KATHERINE.

Katherine and the Moment of Fortune. Translated by Lady Wallace. 3 vols. Bentley.

Katherine is by the author of *Clara*, a German novel which lately obtained some reputation in its own and in the English language. This new story is similar in its merits and in its faults; there is much rapid sketching; the characters are originally conceived; humour and satire glimmer through the romantic tissue, and German fashions and sentiments are cleverly and simply represented. The author, however, completes his narration slowly; the parts are not kept well together; the main point is scarcely brought out with sufficient distinctness. It will be noticed that the best chapters in *Katherine* are those which seem to have been adapted from *Clara*—we mean the theatrical episodes, which are really admirable. Most of the personages who figure in the tale belong to the humbler ranks of life; the heroine herself, the cherry-lipped, black-eyed, black-haired, oval-faced, graceful Katherine is a flower-seller, and daughter of a washerwoman; but there is another beauty, Rosa by name, concerning whose relations to the 'moment of fortune' the reader soon learns to be curious. The latter part of the history introduces these persons into a court atmosphere with a Regent as the centre-piece, and barons and ladies revolving about them in vicious, glittering circles. These episodes and groupings are skilfully contrived, and suggest the idea that the writer is copying from living models. We have found *Katherine* an uncommon and interesting novel—quite a contrast, in its spirit and simplicity, to the rapid three volumes composed of half-sentences in false French and a riot of hysterical English, which are announced as 'now ready' for ever.

MANY THOUGHTS ON MANY THINGS.

Many Thoughts on Many Things. Being a Treasury of Reference consisting of Selections from the Works of Known Great and Great Unknown. Compiled and Analytically arranged by Henry Southgate. Routledge and Co.

MR. SOUTHGATE would have been judicious to have refrained from an attempt to introduce his Great Unknowns to the admiration of the world. In most instances they are unknown, because they are not great in any sense of the term. Instead of being a 'treasury,' this massive and plethoric volume is an unwieldy aggregate of extracts, good, bad, and indifferent. Three-fourths of Mr. Southgate's *opusculum* should never have been detached from the magazine articles to which they belonged, and with which they had been comfortably buried. Many beautiful examples of thought and style are to be found, of course, among the selections, a large number of the best authors having been zealously pencilled into paragraphs by the compiler; but hundreds of his 'beautiful passages' are atomic in their mediocrity. It is unnecessary to occupy our space with specimens of these absurdly chosen fragments, swept together without reference to their value, originality, point, truth, or any other quality entitling them to stand apart from their contexts. Most of that which is worth preserving, has been preserved elsewhere, while of the rest it is impossible to say more than that Mr. Southgate has been very industrious in constructing the anthology of the *Family Friend*.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Théorie de l'Équilibre Économique. Par Jules Le Bastier.

Paris: 1858.

M. LE BASTIER is an eloquent antagonist of the *laissez faire* school of political economy, as well as of socialism. According to him, the disciples of both opinions draw erroneous conclusions from known facts. The calculations of the *laissez faire* economist have regard only to the individual man, forgetting that the interests of the individual are often opposed to those of society in general, while the socialistic economists run into the opposite extreme by simply looking at mankind in the collective form. This forgetfulness on both sides of a very important fundamental principle is the cause of all the mischief, inflicted upon the world by the practical adherents of either of those schools. However, the doctrines of the *laissez faire* economists are far more dangerous to the human family than those of ultra socialistic dreamers: because they are more selfish and unprincipled. It is that school which M. Le Bastier chiefly attacks in the present work.

See the fruit [he exclaims] of these doctrines, which reduce social progress to a mere development of industry, trade, and wealth, unmindful of the indissoluble interdependence between production and consumption.

God has said to men: "Be fruitful and multiply,"—they have invented the 'moral self-constraint.'

Our forefathers considered a numerous population a source of strength and importance to countries,—they have organized emigration.

Former statesmen believed agriculture to be the fundamental basis of a state,—they have put this basis at the top of their building.

The moralists of all times have taught us that moderation is a virtue,—they have created an unmeasured tendency to luxury.

Philosophy teaches that true happiness consists, not in the possession of great riches, but in the exercise of wisdom and goodness,—they have fostered a burning thirst for wealth, have erected temples to Mammon, and made Law their high priest. They have sown materialism,—they have earned corruption.

To remedy this vicious state of society, M. Le Bastier demands a restoration of what he calls *équilibre économique*, that is, an organization of human activity under a twofold aspect, first, in regard to men in their collective existence, and secondly in respect to individual interests. To realize the first problem, an exact balance between the natural wealth of a country and the

particular wants of its population becomes, he says, absolutely necessary; and the second object is attained by an equilibrium between the wages of the individual worker and the price of the necessities of life. Thus the duty of the government is to give the individual such protection as will ensure him the 'equilibrium.' The thought, it must be confessed, is not altogether new, but was long ago expressed by the old war-cry of 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work.'

M. Le Bastier proposes to bring his economical equilibrium into action by the sole means of taxing the community. Taxation in manifold shapes and forms will level the unequal components of society.

Taxes become, in consequence of a natural force of things, the chief instrument by the aid of which the government of a community will be able to realize those conditions of protection and of economical equilibrium, for by the very action of the tax itself this equalization can be brought about without direct interference in the reciprocal actions between individual and individual.

A celebrated socialistic author, whom nobody can deny originality and depth of thought, exclaimed in one of his open moods: "Give me the right of taxing, and I will make a revolution!"

Taking the form and the groundwork of his thought, we say: "Give us the right of taxing, not socialistic taxation, or property tax, nor even progressive contributions, but simply taxation in its actual form, and we will make at our will either a happy and prosperous nation or a people plunged into profound social misery."

Indeed, the inevitable result of taxation, under whatever form it be levied, is to react on the price of all products and things used, and by the force of this reaction, to regulate and to check the rate at which production and consumption are going on. Thus it may be made either to strengthen or to weaken the reciprocal equilibrium of two kinds of manufactures, or, in other words, to dry up or to fertilize the sources of well-being and prosperity of a country.

This may sound well in the ears of Birmingham Conference men, but we wonder what Mr. Toulmin Smith would say to the enemy of both political economists and socialists, which M. Le Bastier professes to be. To us he appears to start from a fundamental blunder. The law should interfere with men as little as possible—not at all, except to counsel the maintenance of national government, to enable those who are willing to act together, to restrain those who would assail others in person, property, and rights. This is 'free trade,' the fundamental principle of which is applicable to most social and political relations besides commerce.

CHRISTMAS SPORTS.

The Sporting World. By Harry Hieover, Author of 'Table Talk and Stable Talk,' 'Hints to Horsemen,' 'Sporting Facts and Fancies,' &c. &c. Newby.

HARRY HIEOVER begins his work by alluding to the prevalent false estimate entertained by the citizens of this metropolis respecting the character and pursuits of sportsmen. Knowing little of rural amusements, and with ideas based upon the delineations of Squire Westerns in novels of a past age, many of them, he remarks, and the fair sex especially, place a fox-hunter in the same category with an orang-outang or New Zealand savage. Addressing her female coterie, the lady blesses Providence that spared her the calamity of having a fox-hunter for a husband: she is truly thankful Mr. — has no taste that way. A pretty life for her and her family; obliged to rise the saints only know what hour, to get him hot water to shave, and for breakfast. Then off he goes to join his brother sportsmen, as he styles them, whooping and hallooing all over the country, breaking down farmers' fences, riding over and destroying their wheat. At night the gentleman comes home, entertains his wife with an account of the run, as he calls it, if he has had good sport; if not, he is cross, and walks off to bed, or goes fast asleep in his chair, either of which is vastly agreeable to his wife. Perhaps, indeed, he brings some companion home with him, and then they are noisy enough, telling how such a one rode, or speaking of another who got a fall, which any one with proper feeling would shudder to hear of; they laugh, and term it a 'purler,' or some such detestable low term. This they carry on all the evening, instead of making up a nice little rubber, &c. *Faugh! sportsmen—Mercy defend her from all such!*

But, if our lady-cits thus superciliously regard the followers of St. Hubert, their own peculiar caste is not over-indulgent to each other's chosen pursuits. Thus, the stag-hunter, whose quarry is the antlered monarch of the waste, maintains, at the best, but a sort of patronizing air towards him of the fox cover. He, in turn, estimates a gallop with harriers, when a gallop can be obtained, as very slow work indeed. Nor is the master of a pack of harriers less prompt to retort good-humoured raillery at the expense of his assailants. Perhaps he singles out a neighbour, known to be present at his meet only because the fox-hounds do not hunt on that day. Allusive to a particular run, blazoned abroad as something exceedingly fast, he observes, "I suppose you had some fine riding over so choice a country?" "Oh, yes. Gilmour took the lead, and kept it for a time, in spite of us all. Forrester went as straight as a bird. Strathmore knocked up his first horse, and nearly brought his second to a standstill. Stubbs—(sotto voce) Ginger Stubbs—went remarkably well. Wilson, on his brown horse, navigated the brook beautifully, skimming it like a swallow. Will, the whip, got in, took a cold bath, but, getting his horse out, went at a pace that shortly warmed him and himself again. Standish went—" "Bless me," interrupts the Squire, "you must have had a hundred eyes to have seen what the hounds were doing and watch the exploits of so many riders so closely. I am an old-fashioned fellow, and have the antediluvian idea that, when we go hunting, the hounds have some little claim on our attention. Yoi! Joker and Jovial!" cried he, seeing both hounds feathering about an extremely likely place for a hare to be, or to have recently been. Jovial gave one of his deep bass assurances of a find, and Joker, putting in his treble, corroborated the fact. "Hark, Jovial and Joker!" cried the Squire. "Goo, hark together! hoik!" responded the huntsman. A crack from the whips, and "Loo on" "Loo on" sent the stragglers up to the leading hounds.

The vexed question respecting the right the landlord possesses in game reared and fed upon his estate is thus impartially canvassed. The proprietor feeds the game, or rather, they feed themselves from the land, and are, therefore, his by custom. More than this, they are his by the law of equity. When he rears poultry by his own or servant's hand; no one disputes his right

to claim them as his property. The game is as much so, which feed themselves, for it is his grain they eat. The best plan of preservation would be to say to the tenants, thus:—"Look ye, neighbour, I understand you shoot. Do so; kill what game you want for your own consumption; and, in return, help to keep a sharp eye on my preserves."

After some highly pertinent, and therefore useful, observations on betting and 'betting men,' and the degrading exhibitions of the cock-pit, dog-fights, rat-killing, and other similar sports, the author concludes his amusing book with the following seasonable advice to the younger generation:—

A morbid kind of enthusiasm frequently induces men, particularly young men, to patronize and mix in scenes (sports, they are called) that cannot be justified. Will these misguided persons permit one who has seen much, to observe that such pursuits will exclude them from the notice of sportsmen, and can only procure for them the very undesirable and purchased civility of the lowest characters in the sporting world.

CENTRALIZATION OR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Local Self-Government Unmythified. By Toulmin Smith.

Stanford.

To see a live lord holding forth to the common, unperfumed, everyday workpeople, and not to applaud, is a 'moral self-restraint' scarcely to be expected from human flesh and blood. The feeling that one of the great of the earth has lowered himself to the plane of temperance apostles and guinea lecturers in general, is so sweet, so intoxicating to the vanity of poor mortals, that few can withstand the desire to sip the honeyed words of such noble speakers. However, the very fact that this indulgence is a kind of inebriation carries in its train certain disagreeable consequences, which Germans denominate *kaltzenjammer*. It is the reaction of the body over the soul, of matrimonial reckonings over the fleeting dreams of love.

Mr. Toulmin Smith has performed these reactionary duties towards the members of the Social Science Association, of blessed memory. Their days of glory are past now, and their days of *kaltzenjammer* have arrived. The long reports of Birmingham speeches begin to be forgotten; but the short, cutting little pamphlets of London critics fall after them, smashing the brilliant card-houses which had been erected with such an expenditure of fine phraseology and benignant smiles. According to Mr. Toulmin Smith, those sweet speeches were all humbug:—

The whole Social Science Association was planned and carried out in the sole interests of centralism; and those, well known as they were, who are identified with the maintenance of the spirit of liberty and self-government, were never conferred with, or even asked to take a part in the proceedings of the association, or had any notice of its intentions, or opportunity of either making a suggestion or securing fair play; while centralists crowded its committees, and managed and controlled the papers that were to be read.

The Birmingham speech-makers, 'self-exalting philanthropists, weak sentimentalists, pretended reformers,' and others, have been either the dupes or the tools of that 'grasping hand of centralism which is eager to curtail parochial power, to benumb throughout the land the spirit of all that is noble and manly and genial, to dwarf the completeness of manhood, to close the door to the only practical education, to stop improvement, violate common sense, and coerce every honest and right effort at local duty.' The association has been nothing more than a new move of those 'unscrupulous tacticians, whose only ideas of government are Germanism and influence, the realization of which they have ceaselessly pursued for the last quarter of a century.'

What Mr. Toulmin Smith thinks necessary for the true progress of Great Britain is not an appeal to the central government to do everything for the people—to educate it, guide it, and protect it and tax it at all times; but, on the contrary, to give aid to the real development of local self-government, the basis of which lies in the Ward system. Such local government is as old as England itself, and, therefore, best adapted to British feelings and habits.

History proves that three, five, eight, ten, and more centuries ago, local self-government did exist in England, and was of force to keep in check the most ambitious monarchs, as well as to fulfil the needs of every community in the land, and to defend the state against every foreign aggressor. We find that, whether it were in the crowded city or the rural parish, the men of England, including the 'villeins' were, heretofore, in the habit of handling their own business and knew how to handle it. The things they handled were of the same nature, exactly, as those to do, or interfere in the doings of which, we are now told that 'centralism is a necessity.' But if the men of England were able to handle these things formerly, how comes that they are less able to handle them now? Surely they do not less concern them now. Is it, then, education, or progress, or civilization,—or what is it that has unfitted them? By what process has it happened that the understandings of men have become disabled to comprehend and grasp what were formerly 'common things' to all men? Is it the natural degeneracy of the race? Or is it that the importation into England of the centralizing system has chilled the sense of men's duties to their neighbours, and drawn them from those habits, by keeping up which alone can the true practical education of free and intelligent men be made a living thing? Have superficial book pedantry and 'aesthetics' been made to supersede the practical training of men in the duties of life?

Yes; 'superficial book pedantry' or, as the new phrase calls it, Red Tape, is fast becoming one of the fundamental institutions of Great Britain. It is in full bloom just now; and Mr. Smith himself, who seems to question, gives an interesting evidence of its vitality. In 1855, a select committee of Parliament had under consideration the Nuisances Removal Act, and Public Health Bill, in which Mr. Toulmin Smith, by unceasing perseverance, succeeded in embodying his ideas of local self-government. The Bill had already twice passed the House of Commons to the joy of the secret author, when on a sudden, as if by magic, certain words and phrases were interlarded with the text as if for the sole purpose of creating confusion. Evidently Red Tape was at full work! Vainly did Mr. Toulmin Smith appeal to Sir Benjamin Hall "who owed his position to his having culled some flowers from the garden of the author of Local Self-Government," vainly even did he explain to Lord Palmerston the clauses he desired to have altered in order to make the Bill one that would really work and be useful. Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department listened attentively, the President of the Board of Health assented graciously to

all propositions, but the noxious phrases remained, and the lawyers of the Court of Queen's Bench had some neat work cut out for years to come. It was as clear as sunlight that Red Tape was infinitely stronger than either Mr. Toulmin Smith, Sir Benjamin Hall, or Lord Palmerston.

We might almost conclude that everything great or good, hitherto accomplished by legislative enactments, had been the fruit of individual energy; as soon as the central authorities interfere, mischief only seems to be produced. Mr. Toulmin Smith, a private man unpaid and unrecognized, spent a large amount of time and money in getting a Public Health Act for England; while those who are employed at a high remuneration to do the work, not only did nothing to further it, but raised innumerable difficulties and obstructions in the way of accomplishing anything real and practical. Again, when the Act had at last been passed, Sir Benjamin Hall's particular attention was called to the importance of making it known to the local authorities, as otherwise the Act would be as good as non-existent. The health department, however, did not stir in the matter, and to get the thing done Mr. Toulmin Smith had to do it himself; and the labour, inconvenient as it was to him, promptly proved a positive boon to the public. Instances like these show the practical working of centralism in a clearer light than anything else which might be said either for or against it.

Mr. Toulmin Smith may cast at the British public the reproach of Phocion. He has fastened upon a truth which lies at the very bottom of English politics. He has explained to us the origin and working of those laws which constitute our strength in political freedom. But the public of our day, instead of seizing upon that lever for the maintenance and extension of popular freedom, has turned a lazy ear to the historical admonition; and has preferred to muddle on with Reform Bills, 'bills to amend,' and 'bills to amend amendment on act,' until we have come to consider any recognition of the liberties which we possess already by our great statutes as a 'ministerial concession.' If Englishmen throughout the country would take up Mr. Toulmin Smith's principal book, study its principle, and resolve to carry it out, we should not be dependent upon ministers, or new charters, or anything else, but should soon make our own House of Commons carry out our own laws according to our existing rights.

The Arts.

'CHRISTMAS AT THE THEATRES:

A JOURNEY THROUGH FAIRY LAND.

At this festive season of the year, the utmost dreams of youthful imaginations seem to be realized by the art of the scene-painter, the machinist, the ballet-master, and the costumer; and Fairy Land is brought visibly before our eyes at some score of places in this vast, drab-coloured world of London. A few shillings at the utmost—a single shilling, or less, if we are humble folk—a scrap of paper, duly signed, if we are 'gentlemen of the press'—will unlock the gates which open on these golden regions, and send us home like people who have awakened from the dreams of hobgoblin. Behold, as you walk along the streets, the black and red announcements of these wonders! Do they not come upon you like reminiscences of the old days when you thought a theatre at Christmas time the true *summa bonum*? Do they not lull the watchful dragon of the present with the enchantments of the past—opening, as it were, a strange, long shut-up door that shows you, in the keen flash of a moment, what you were once, and have long ceased to be? Well, well, you are a man of business now, deep in speculations and 'hypotheses,' and have no time to be sentimental. But your own childhood is renewed in that of your little ones, and, as of course they must go to the play during the holidays, you, like a good Paterfamilias, will not object to take a rapid flight with us through the Fairy Lands now blossoming, like gorgeous oases, over the length and breadth of London.

Away then into the air above the chimney-pots, that so, like another Asmodeus, we may take off, for your especial behalf, the roofs—not of the dull, common houses, but—of those huge caskets wherein (as under the magic tent which the hero of the Arabian story carried about with him) lie the gardens of Elysium, the palaces of the genii, the lands of Faery, and the waters of enchantment. Stay! We will pause here, at the portals of this castle, known to the dull world as the Theatre of DRURY LANE. All around us, for miles every way, lie the deserts—dry, dusky, husky, foggy, brawling wastes of brick and mortar; but in a moment all is changed. We have taken off the roof of this castle, O Paterfamilias! lifted it even as you lift the top of your egg at breakfast; and here we are in a quaint, bright world, wherein is unfolded to us the history of Little Jack Horner, or Harlequin A B C. We behold how Intelligence is engaged in a strife against Ignorance, and how Imagination conveys the former to a gorgeous castle in the air, where a hundred maidens, headed by a syren known to the world by the name of Miss ROSINA WRIGHT, enchant our eyes and ravish our hearts by 'dancing in delight,' like those other hundred damsels whom the knight in SPENSER saw upon a day, which day shall last for ever within the eternal ring of genius and poetry. Many other wonders do we see, and at length are taken to the bottom of the ocean, whence we are rescued by the electric cable, and are conducted to a Palace of Coral, or Fairy Aquarium—a home of beauty, blushing with the hidden splendours of the watery world, as if all the sunsets that had ever fallen and sunk into the western waves were here preserved and glorified. At this point, let us pay homage to the 'so potent art' of the enchanter BEVERLEY, who has conjured up this vision for our delight. The nymphs of Greece and the fays of modern Europe people the warm and flashing glories of this region, and hover unsupported in the glowing air. Electric light and blue fire still further kindle the already dazzling splendour, and, as we gaze and wink, we pass from the wonderful world below the sea to the ordinary pantomime regions, and find ourselves in the company of two Clowns (Messrs. FLECKMORE and BOLENO), two Pantaloon (Messrs. NASH and W. A. BARNES), two Harlequins (Messrs. MILANO and ST. MAINE), two Sprites (Messrs. ELLIOTT), two Columbines (Madame BOLENO and Mademoiselle CHRISTINE), a Harlequina (Mademoiselle AGNES), and a Dandy (M. DEULIN)—the last a new character in a pantomime. We are in the thick of life and 'business'—of a certain sort. Mr. FLECKMORE, as every one knows, is the best of clowns, and also an excellent dancer; and he here performs, in company with one of the ladies of the pantomime, a very pretty and effective polka.

Now let us pass to the HAYMARKET, where Mr. BUCKSTONE reveals, in a series of scenes of exquisite beauty and grace, the story of *The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood*, or Harlequin and the Spiteful Fairy. Mr. CALLCOTT is here the scenic

magician, and, as we submit ourselves to his guidance, we pass through the realms of Faery, with their sapphire cliffs, their banquet-halls of silver columns, their golden groves and amaranthine arcades—the entertainment concluding with an old baronial hall at Christmas time.

Striking northward, we enter the Princess's Elysium. Here the adventures of the *White Cat* are lively depicted, and, among other radiant wonders, we see a dance of fairies, each damsel gleaming like a distinctive gem or flower, as if all Golconda and all Cashmere had been showered on the sight. We open our eyes on the Paradise of the *White Cat's* lovely island, lying slumberously on the bosom of a silvery lake; and we behold a wondrous Christmas Tree, which bursts into an effluence of magic splendours, gradually breaking like a rich dawn out of the dark leaves and branches. And, when the harlequinade begins, we have no end of fun, and some special ingenuities in the way of mechanical changes and effects.

We have now left Oxford-street, and are beating the air for the neighbourhood of the Strand, where we drop down in the classic home of the departed VESTRIS—the LYCEUM. *Lalla Rookh* shall here conduct us into the East, and Mr. WILLIAM BROUGH shall keep our wits awake by the constant sparkle of his puns, and Mrs. CHARLES DILLON as the fair heroine, Miss WOOLGAR as *Feramosa*, Mrs. BUCKINGHAM WHITE as a captain of Ghibers, Mr. TOOLE as his (or her) chief assistant, Mr. BARRETT as the father of *Lalla Rookh*, and Miss ELIZA WEBB and Miss ESTHER JACOBS as a Peri and a waiting-maid, shall delight and fascinate us by the spirit and vivacity of their acting, singing, and dancing. Of the gorgeous marvels of the transformation scene—a temple of gold, silver, and jewellery, basking in the light and heat of its own radiance, and lapsing from one beauty into another with the softness and tenderness of a vision—we will only say that it worthily follows in the bright wake of its predecessors in the same locality.

Mr. ROBSON of course reigns supreme in the grotesque world of what we may call tragic burlesque; and so we get into a very peculiar region when, entering the OLYMPIC, we compose ourselves to see and hear *The Doge of Duralto*, or *the Enchanted Eyes*. Mr. ROBERT BROUGH—whose literary partnership with his brother seems now to be dissolved—provides the manager with a part suited to him in the shape of a Doge who has found out the agreeable fact that, whenever his daughter cries, she weeps pearls of price, and who therefore, to gratify his cupidity, makes her continually miserable, until she is spirited away by a lover, when the sordid old father falls into a passion of rage and disappointed avarice. Strangely fine is Mr. ROBSON in this part, and he sings two capital parodies—one on 'Hoop-de-doodem-doo' of the CHRISTY'S Minstrels, the second on Hoob's 'Lost Child.' The other parts are well sustained, and the scenery and costumes are bright and picturesque.

At SADLER'S WELLS, Mr. PHELPS's Fairy region reintroduces us to the charming legend of *Beauty and the Beast*, combined with the adventures of *Little Goody Two-shoes*, and *Mother Bunch's Book-case in Baby-land*. At the CITY OF LONDON THEATRE, we have *William II.*, and *ye Fayre Maid of Harrow*; at the STANDARD, *Georgy Porrey*, *Pudding and Pie* (an entertainment including a very lustrous transformation scene); at the VICTORIA, *Harlequin Prince Love-the-Day*, or *Little Red Riding Hood and the Elf Wolf*; at ASTLEY'S, a pantomime on the

well-worn subject of *Don Quixote*; and at the SURREY, one on the Shakespearean substratum of *Queen Mab*, or *Harlequin Romeo and Juliet*.

These are the chief visions of loveliness provided for us this Christmas by the theatrical enchanters. The Saloons doubtless furnish their own public with more; but, dazzled and blind with the flood of brilliance through which we have been cleaving, we drop down homewards through the night—we, the Asmodeus of the journey, and you, the instructed Paterfamilias—and find ourselves once more among the things of earth, as the bells are ringing out the dying year, 1857, and heralding the birth of the yet shrouded mystery, 1858.

THE OPERA IN THE WINTER.

MR. LUMLEY may fairly claim the honour of having accomplished the most complete democratic and social revolution in the operatic world, in a metropolis not, like Paris, celebrated for startling innovations. Imagine 'The Opera,' in all the full significance of those words, on the last night of the old year! PICCOLLOMINI and GIUGLINI in *La Traviata* on the 31st of December, in the city supposed by intelligent foreigners to be enshrouded in fog one half of the year, and deluged with rain the other half! Let them laugh who win. From Paris we hear of impenetrable fogs and of the languishing ITALIENS. In London we have no fog to speak of, but, on the contrary, bright brilliant weather to usher in the new year (may it be the omen of a brighter and happier year than the last!); and we have, moreover, the ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE—the house of old time, sacred to the deities of aristocratic summer—thrown open to the winter public, and thronged from floor to ceiling with immense audiences of all sorts of people. But even this is scarcely so surprising as that the Italians (who in the brilliant summer season are often 'indisposed') should, in the depth of December, be ready and able to sing with all the freshness, vigour, and delight of larks and thrushes welcoming the spring. After exhausting the compound-worded phraseology of German enthusiasm, and stirring the Dutch critics to a more than Dutch courage of expression, Madlle. PICCOLLOMINI has come back again to her island home, her second country, as she may now call England, to unlock the silence of our songless winter, and to lighten with unaccustomed joy the saddened evenings of the departing year. A blessing on her for not having stayed away with the swallows till the green leaves come again! No wonder she comes rapturously welcomed and caressed, like a spoiled darling, as she is! She comes home to us again as bright, as airy, as birdlike as ever, captivating, enchanting, fascinating all hearers and beholders, and shedding the light and warmth of a sudden spring upon the wintry night. GIUGLINI has been singing admirably; his voice, like fine and generous wine, gains in strength, mellowness, and bouquet, month by month, and in the existing dearth of tenors who have a voice, or who, having a voice, know how to use it, it is indeed a luxury to listen to the full, rich, tender tones of GIUGLINI, singing with that evident sense of enjoyment which is caught by an audience like a contagion. The performance of the operas generally has been highly creditable and satisfactory; and the orchestra, if not always steady and precise, has had one great merit, due to its conductor: it has been kept down in the accompaniments. We see no reason why the winter operatic campaign should not extend into the spring, and so the whole year become one entire and perfect Opera-Season.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, January 1.

YESTERDAY the settlement of the 31st of December account passed over, and the Stock Exchange year closed with a more favourable aspect than the recent disasters, both at home and abroad, have authorized us to expect. On that day shares generally maintained the late advances, and closed after a slight decline during the day, at the opening prices of the morning, and in many cases at an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consols which opened at 93 $\frac{1}{4}$, 94 (reduced to 93), on the breaking up of the Bank Court, without announcing any reduction in the rate as had been anticipated, recovering, however, at the close of the House to 93 $\frac{1}{4}$. A reduction has been made by the London and Westminster Bank of 1 per cent. on deposits, which is now 4 per cent. on small amounts, and 5 per cent. on sums of 500l. and upwards. The Bank of France has also reduced its rate from 6 to 5 per cent., being its lowest rate since September, 1856. Large parcels of gold are arriving, and more is expected. The demand for money is easy, both at the Bank and Stock Exchange.

English opened this morning at 93 $\frac{1}{4}$, i. as against 94 at which they opened the 1st of January, 1857. The different estimation in which some of our leading shares are held at the opening of the present year, to the corresponding period of 1857, may be gleaned from the following comparison:—

CLOSING PRICES.

	Jan. 1857.	Jan. 1858.
London and Brighton	112	108
Caledonian	63	59
Eastern Counties	36	34
Great Northern	91	90
Great Western	69	66
London and North Western	107	98
Midland	83	92
Lancashire and Yorkshire	97	94
North Stafford	12	14
South Eastern	74	72
London and South Western	107	97
Berwick	84	98
York and North	60	86

After business hours, Consols close 94 $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and markets generally very good.

Blackburn, 94 10; Caledonian, 85 $\frac{1}{2}$, 85 $\frac{1}{2}$; Chester and Holyhead, 54 36; Eastern Counties, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$; Great Northern, 97 $\frac{1}{2}$, 98 $\frac{1}{2}$; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 97, 99; Great Western, 26, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 94 $\frac{1}{2}$, 95; London and Blackwall, 6, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; London, Brighton and South Coast, 107, 109; London and North-Western, 98 $\frac{1}{2}$, 99; London and South-Western, 97, 98; Midland, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$, 92 $\frac{1}{2}$; North-Eastern (Berwick), 97 $\frac{1}{2}$, 98 $\frac{1}{2}$; South-Eastern (Dover), 72, 73; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 64, 7; Dutch Rhineish, 34, 22 dis.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 27, 28; Great Central of France, —; Great Luxembourg, 75, 84; Northern of France, 38 $\frac{1}{2}$, 39; Paris and Lyons, 34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 35 $\frac{1}{2}$; Royal Danish, 16, 18; Royal Swedish 4, $\frac{1}{2}$; Sambre and Meuse, 84, 85.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Thursday, January 1.

THROUGHOUT the country the supplies of Wheat have been

very moderate, and the general tone of the trade is firmer. The demand, however, continues to be only in retail. Barley and Oats are also a trifle better, but Maize and Beans do not show any signs of improvement. The prices on the spot are—good runs of English red Wheat 48s. per quarter, Saxons 45s., soft St. Petersburg 42s. to 44s., Mecklenburg 62 lbs. Wheat 60s. to 51s. per 480 lbs.; upland 48s. to 49s. per 480 lbs. Norfolk Flour 35s. to 38s. 6d. Malt Barley 35s. to 39s. per 424 lbs. Sals 35s. Archangel Oats 29s., Odessa 18s. to 19s.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 29.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN BARBER and FREDERICK ROSENAUER, Hammond-court, Mincing-lane, general merchants—JONATHAN and ROBERT HILLS, High-street, Gravesend, and High-street, Dartford, bankers—WILLIAM CULMORE, Upper Seymour-street, Euston-square, draper—PETER MCLACHLAN, Birch-lane, Cornhill, and St. George's-terrace, Kilburn, baker, pastry cook—JOHN GREEN and WILLIAM BAKER, Newgate-street, stay manufacturers—WILLIAM and HENRY WELLS, Molyneux-street and Shouddham-street, Bryanston-square, cabinet makers and upholsterers—WILLIAM HENRY WATKINS, Portsea, Hants, innkeeper, licensed victualler, wholesale stationer—JAMES WATTS, Gravesend, hotel keeper—ARTHUR JACKSON, Peterborough, Northampton, corn merchant—THOMAS ROLLING, Hatterton, Derby, cattle dealer and woolstapler—ROBERT and JOHN BLOW, Great Gimsby, corn and coal merchants—GEORGE LIVERMORE SHORLAND, Stretford-road, Hulme, Manchester, ironmonger—SILAS TETLOW, Oldham, Lancaster, cotton waste dealer—BENJAMIN HAIGH, Dukinfield, Chester, engine maker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. MORTON, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, grocer—P. A. G. GRANT, Kenoward, Inverness-shire, tacksman—J. NEWLANDS, Dumbaronshire, draper—RAMSAY and SMART, Arbroath, manufacturers—D. STEWART, Glasgow, grocer—J. LIDDELL, Glasgow, commission agent—CONNELL and TAYLOR, Glasgow, sewed muslin manufacturers—J. FRASER, Muirfield, Inverness, shipowner—J. STRAFF, Renfrewshire, contractor—T. BENS- WICK, Glasgow, tea merchant—J. GOODALL, Kirkcaldy, confectioner—J. M'LINTOCK, Blackburn, Louthgowsire, merchant.

Friday, January 1.

BANKRUPTS.—FRANCIS CLAXTON, Dovercourt, Essex, innkeeper—THOMAS ROACH, Old Broad-street, mining agent—HENRY WATKINS, Irongate-wharf, Praed-street, Paddington, merchant—JOHN SCOTT, Shrewsbury, coal dealer—BARNARD GEORGE DYER, Cardiff, ship chandler—GEORGE WALL, Cheltenham, baker—WILLIAM QUAYLE, Liverpool, ship broker—WILLIAM TAYLOR the elder, WILLIAM TAYLOR the younger, and HENRY TAYLOR, Barclays, linen manufacturers—SAMUEL PERCY, Birmingham, jeweller—ADOLPH F. BECKMAN, North Shields, ship-chandler—WILLIAM HICKS, Warwick, commission agent—WILLIAM COOK, Birmingham, stone mason—JOHN CUFFORD and JAMES THOMPSON, Staffordshire, Bradley Hall Ironworks—DANIEL EDGAR MONIES, Liverpool, merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JOHN MACDONALD, residing in Musselburgh, partner of the Western Bank of Scotland—RONALDS and CO., Paisley, shawl manufacturers—GEORGE OUGHTERSON, Greenock, iron merchant—ROBERT ELAIR and CO., Glasgow, hot-presser—PETER M'LAREN, Glasgow, ship carpenter.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

FIRTH.—On the 1st ult., at Ryculla, Bombay, the wife of John Firth, Esq., a son.

LONGE.—On the 21st ult., at Great Yarmouth, the wife of Robert Bacon, Longe, Esq., a son.

WEMYSS.—On the 17th Nov., at Dughshah, the wife of Lieut. and Adj. H. M. Wemyss, 1st Bengal Fusiliers: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

COX—DRUMMOND.—On the 29th ult., at Kidlington, near Oxford, Captain Edmund Henry Cox, Royal Marine Artillery, to Frances Emily Cadogan, eldest daughter of the Rev. Arthur Drummond, rector of Charlton, Kent.

DICKINSON—TOMPSON.—On the 29th ult., at Totnes, Devon, James Dickinson, of Lincoln's-inn, Esq., barrister at-law, to Anne Maria, the elder daughter of Gilbert Northey Tompson, Esq., of that place.

DEATHS.

FAGAN.—Killed, on the 12th Sept., at Delhi, having been previously wounded eight times during the siege, Captain Robert C. H. Fagan, fourth son of the late Major-General C. S. Fagan, C.B., aged 34, leaving a widow and six children.

REDMAYNE.—On the 23rd ult., killed in action with the rebels, near Mundesore, in Malwa, Leonard Redmayne, Esq., of Her Majesty's 14th (the King's Light) Dragoons, eldest son of the late William Trasore Redmayne, Esq., aged 23.

SHERIFF.—At Delhi, on the 14th Aug., of a wound received in action on the 12th Aug., Lieut. David Francis Sheriff, 2nd Bengal Fusiliers.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.
(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	217	217	219	217	218	218
3 per Cent. Red.	93	94	93	93	94	94
3 per Cent. Con. An.	94	93	93	93	94	94
Consols for Consol.	94	94	93	93	94	94
New 3 per Cent. An.	94	94	93	93	94	94
New 2 1/2 per Cent. An.	94	94	93	93	94	94
Long Ann. 1860	2 1-16	2	2	2	2	2
India Stock	20	20	20	20	20	20
Ditto Bonds	20	20	20	20	20	20
Ditto, under £1000	15	15	15	15	15	15
Ex. Bills, £1000	par	1 p	3 p	par	1 p	1 p
Ditto, £500	1 p	1 p	1 p	4 p	4 p	4 p
Ditto, Small	1 d	1 p	par	4 p	4 p	4 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.	
Brazilian Bonds	99 Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	92 Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents. ...
Chilian 6 per Cents.	102 Cents. ... 108
Chilian 3 per Cents.	Russian 4 1/2 per Cents. ... 98
Dutch 2 1/2 per Cents.	65 1/2 Spanish ... 42
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	98 1/2 Spanish Committee Cer- of Coup. not fun. ... 31
Equador Bonds	201 Turkish 6 per Cent. ... 67 1/2
Mexican Account	201 Turkish New, 4 ditto. ... 102
Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cents.	77 1/2 Turkish New, 4 ditto. ... 102
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	40 1/2 Venezuela 4 1/2 per Cents. ...

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
PICCOLLOMINI, SPEZIA, BELLETTI, ALDI-
GHIERI, VIALETTI, and GIUGLINI.
IL TROVATORE, LA TRAVIATA, LUCIA, LA FIGLIA
LA FAVORITA.

The order of performances will be as follows:—
TUESDAY, Jan. 5, IL TROVATORE.
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 6, LA FIGLIA DEL REGGIMENTO,
and Last Act of LA FAVORITA.
THURSDAY, Jan. 7, LA TRAVIATA.
SATURDAY, Jan. 9, LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.

Prices.—Pit stalls, 12s. 6d.; boxes (to hold four persons),
pit and one pair, 21s.; grand tier, 3s. 3s.; two pair, 14s.;
three pair, 15s.; gallery boxes, 10s.; gallery stalls, 3s. 6d.;
pit, 3s. 6d.; gallery, 2s. Doors open at half-past seven, and
the opera to commence at eight o'clock.
Applications for boxes, &c., to be made at the Box-office
at the Theatre.

PROFESSOR WILJALBA FRIKELL.
ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL MAGIC,
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
at 3, and EVERY EVENING at 8. Stalls, 5s.; Balcony
Stalls, 4s.; Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Private Boxes,
Two Guineas, One Guinea and a half, and One Guinea.
Places to be secured at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33,
Old Bond-street.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—159th Concert,
Polygraphic Hall, Strand. ITALIAN OPERA
NIGHTLY.—Evening Performance on Saturday, com-
mencing at 3, evening at 8. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Amphi-
theatre, 1s. Seats can be had at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old
Bond-street; and at the Hall.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC,
NAPLES, POMPEII, and VESUVIUS, EVERY
NIGHT (except Saturday), at Eight, and Tuesday, Thurs-
day, and Saturday afternoons at Three. Places can
be secured at the Box-office, Egyptian-hall, daily, between
Eleven and Four, without any extra charge.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY
OF SCIENCE, 3, Tichborne-street, facing the Hay-
market. Programme for the Christmas Holidays:—
GUENAL'S APPAREIL URANOGRAPHIQUE constantly in
motion; LIVING OBJECTS in the large Oxy-Hydrogen
Microscope; Hundreds of new Anatomical Models of a most
interesting character. Lectures by Dr. KAHN, at 3 o'clock,
on the Physiology of Digestion, and at 8, on the Physiology
of Reproduction; and by Dr. SEXTON, at 4 1/2 p.m., "The
Air we Breathe," at 4, on the Mysteries of the Human
HAIR and BEARD; and at 9, on the Wonders of Elec-
tricity: all the Lectures illustrated by Brilliant Experi-
ments, Dissolving Views of an entirely new character, &c.
Open (for Gentlemen only) from 12 till 5, and from 7
till 10. Illustrated Handbook, Sixpence. Programme Gratis.
Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures and a Programme sent post free
on the receipt of 12 Stamps.

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHIC AS-
SOCIATION.—An Exhibition of the Collection for
1857 will be opened at the Galleries in Suffolk-street, Pall-
Mall East, on Thursday, January 7th, 1858, at an Evening
Conversation. The Chair will be taken by the President,
C. R. Cockerell, Esq., B.A., at half-past seven o'clock. The
Exhibition will continue open daily till February 24th.
Subscribers will be entitled to make their selections from
the subjects exhibited, for which purpose a card of admis-
sion and a catalogue will be sent to each.
ROBERT HESKETT, Hon. Sec.
95, Wimpole-street, W.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS have been placed by
internal remedies. They save thousands annually from
falling a sacrifice to Dyspepsia, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, con-
stipation, Liver Complaints, &c.—a fact attested by myriads
of witnesses; no sufferer from scorbutic affections has ever
failed to experience relief from them. General weakness
and debility, the premonitions of vital decay, are replaced
with vigour and healthful action in every organ throughout
the entire system by the restorative and exhilarating in-
fluence of this life-sustaining vegetable preparation.

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Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, Lon-
don, and 8, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamps, Con-
stantinople; A. Guidice, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

DEAFNESS, Noises in the Head. Turkish
Treatment by a Retired Surgeon from the Crimea
(who was himself perfectly cured). Just published, a book
SELF CURE, free by post for six stamps. Surgeon COL-
LTON, M.R.C.S., 6, Leicester-place, Leicester-square,
London. At home from 11 to 4, to receive visits from
patients.

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HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., are
now delivering the October Brewings of the above
celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for
by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day.
Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 15 cabbons and upwards.
By HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., Wine and Spirit
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Jan., 1858.

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Goodrich's Cigar, Tobacco, and Snuff Stores, 407,
Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square. Box, containing
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near Soho-square. Boxes containing 14 very fine Zutoc
Cigars for 2s.; post free, six stamps extra; 1b. boxes, con-
taining 105, 21s. None are genuine unless signed "H. N.
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A HORSE, COW, SHEEP, or PIG.—THORLEY'S
FOOD for CATTLE, as used in her Majesty's stables; also
on his Royal Highness the Prince Consort's farm, Windsor.
Sold in casks containing 448 lbs (with measure enclosed),
price 50s. per cask; carriage paid to any railway station in
the United Kingdom. For horses it is indispensable in pro-
moting and sustaining all the animal functions in health
and vigour. For milch cows it is invaluable, increasing the
quantity and improving the quality of milk. For beasts
nothing can compare with it for feeding quickly. For sheep
and pigs its effect in one month will exceed all expectation.
A pamphlet, containing testimonials from Mr. Brebner,
steward to his Royal Highness the Prince Consort; Mr.
James Fisher, farm manager to her Grace the Duchess of
Athol; Sir David Cunningham, Bart.; Sir John Cathcart,
Bart.; Sir John Riddell, Bart.; and some of the leading
agriculturists of the day, may be had, post free, on applica-
tion to the inventor and sole proprietor, JOSEPH
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Hull. Post-office orders to be made payable at the General
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NARY SCIENCE.

"If progress is daily made in Medical Science by those
whose duty it is to study the diseases to which the human
flesh is heir, it would seem that improvements in Veterinary
art quite keep pace with it, as is manifest on a visit to the
well-known Horse Infirmary of Mr. Major, in Cockspur-
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and cured with a facility truly astonishing, while the effi-
cacy of the remedies, and the quickness of their action, ap-
pear to have revolutionised the whole system of firing and
blistering. Among the most recent proofs of the cure of
spavins by Mr. Major, we may mention Cannobie, the win-
ner of the Metropolitan and second favourite for the Derby,
and who is now as sound as his friends and backers could
desire. And by the advertisement of Mr. Major's pamphlet
in another column, we perceive that other equally mis-
treated horses are set forth, which place him at the head of
the Veterinary art in London."—*Globe*, May 10, 1856.

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and their usefulness has been extended to every clime and
country of the civilized world. They may be found at all
on the gold-fields of Australia, the backwoods of America,
in every important place in the East or West Indies, and
in the palace of Pekin. During this long period they have
withstood the pretensions of numerous inferior rivals, and
are the now acknowledged antidote for Coughs, Colds,
Asthma, &c.
Prepared and Sold in Boxes, 1s. 1ld., and Tins, 2s. 9d.,
by THOMAS KEATING, 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.
Retail by all Druggists.

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extraction of roots, or any painful operation. This im-
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the genuine being only supplied by Messrs. GABRIEL, the
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remedy for relaxation, spermatorrhoea, and exhaustion
of the system. TrieseMAR, No. 2, effectually, in the short
space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all
traces of those disorders which capsules have so long been
thought an antidote for; to the ruin of the health of a vast por-
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tinental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately
the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable
destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the
sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. TrieseMAR, Nos.
1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all
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11s., free by post 1s. 8d. extra to any part of the United
Kingdom, or four cases in one for 35s., by post, 3s. 2d. extra,
which saves 11s.; and in 5d. cases, whereby there is a saving
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extensive learning, a complete staff of professors, and a
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Agents to Price's Patent Candle Company, dealers in all other
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This Soap, now much improved, is recommended for
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12 Table Forks.....	1 18 0	2 8 0	3 0 0	3 10 0
12 Table Spoons.....	1 18 0	2 8 0	3 0 0	3 10 0
12 Dessert Forks.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Dessert Spoons.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Tea Spoons.....	0 18 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	1 18 0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0
2 Sauce Ladles.....	0 7 0	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 16 0
1 Gravy Spoon.....	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 16 0
1 Must. Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs.....	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 7 0	0 7 0
1 Pair of Fish Carvers.....	1 4 0	1 7 0	1 12 0	1 15 0
1 Butter Knife.....	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 7 0	0 8 0
1 Soup Ladle.....	0 13 0	0 17 0	1 0 0	1 1 0
1 Sugar Sifter.....	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 8 0
Total.....	11 14 0	14 11 3	17 4 9	21 4 9

Any article to be had singly at the same prices. An chest to contain the above, and a relative number of knives, &c., 2s. 12s. Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candelsticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.

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